

Edgar Mayer • Thomas Mehner

Geheime Reichssache:

**Thüringen und die
deutsche Atombombe**



Underground high technology zone in »Protective and Trutzgau«

Years of research show that the »Jonastal area« in Thuringia and its environment not only for the National Socialists of the Third Reich were of the greatest interest when it came to setting up a so-called "Protection and Trutzgau" at the end of the war, from which the "final victory" was to be achieved, but Reich Minister of Armament Speer and SS Obergruppenfuhrer Kammler planned from here within the so-called "Operation Avalon" together with the German nobility to establish a new Fourth Reich - without Hitler, Himmler, Goering and Goebbels. The so-called "weapons of victory" played a decisive role in this.

There is no question that Thuringia played a special role in the development of high technology in the Third Reich.

Its true importance was overlooked for many years as it was a high-technology zone where, in the strictest secrecy, the German atomic bomb, its delivery system and other novel weapon systems were to be developed.

The true dimension of what happened in this area of Thuringia has still not been recognized. This book therefore presents current research results relating to witness statements, documents and corresponding information from other sources. Photos were found that support the previous witness statements and sometimes show things that, according to official historiography, never existed.

All in all, it can be seen that the Greater Jonastal area and the AWO area (Amstadt-Wechmar-Ohrdruf) were of the greatest interest not only for the top leadership of the Third Reich, because here a "protection and defense district" for the fight for the »Final victory« should come about, but that there were also secret efforts on the part of Minister of Armaments Speer and SS Obergruppenfuhrer Kammler to build up a new Fourth Reich within the secret operation »Avalon« after the fall of the Third Reich. In both cases, the new miracle weapons should play a decisive

- Hidden history: New information and testimonies on the events of the last weeks of the war in the AWO area.
- Where did the one that took off in Polte 2 on March 16, 1945 fly to?
big rocket?
- Worked on the Third Reich on a solid-fuel V-2 and on a "radiation weapon"?
- Became the first nuclear research sites in the AWO area identified?
- Was the physicist Kurt Diebner the father of the German "bomb"? • The Auschwitz Experiment: Did the SS Test a Nuclear Weapon under Real Conditions?
 - The »Port Chicago Disaster« 1944: Was a US port city destroyed by a nuclear bomb?
 - »Operation Avalon«: How Kammler and Speer wanted to save National Socialism.
 - A Victor's Spoils: Did the Russians find one after the war
- Plant for uranium enrichment in the greater Jonastal area?
- What did the Ministry for State Security know about the AWO Territory and its depots?

contents

Instead of a foreword
page 7

News about the events at the end of the war in Thuringia
page 29

Nuclear research near Arnstadt - what the Americans found out
from that?
page 143

On the trail of the secret?
page 166

Germany's way to the »bomb«
page 190

A nuclear test at Auschwitz?
page 222

Operation Avalon, the Fourth Reich and Port Chicago
disaster
page 234

Latest Developments
page 242

'It's a bit difficult for a pure historian to
write about contemporary history.
You can't base them solely on documents —
especially not on the
basis of diplomatic documents. I know too much
of what's behind it, too much of what's never
been said openly."

Lord Vansittart
(former Head of the UK Foreign Office)

Instead of a foreword

A nuclear bomb development in Thuringia during the time of National Socialism?!

- who first encountered this

discusses the problem, may believe that the two topics "German atomic bomb" and "Thuringia" cannot possibly be connected with one another, since the educated and enlightened person of today knows that Germany did not possess an atomic weapon during the Second World War, and even if the should have been the case - which heretical enough meanwhile many consider possible that this cannot possibly have been built in Thuringia. Finally, the history books record that the United States of America was the first, while in 1942 the Third Reich is said to have canceled the project to develop an atomic bomb.

But what people think they know today and what being told about school science is only one side of the coin. If you turn this around, you can see that the those responsible for the Third Reich six decades ago did in secret that had almost been forgotten by historical research. And Thuringia, located in the center of the »Reich«, was the ideal place to record something that no one would suspect here: an underground weapons development that was top secret.

Certainly, published historiography has allegedly long since worked through and logically "explained" all the events of the Second World War; Nevertheless, rumors have been circulating for decades that something strange was going on in the greater Thuringian area of Jonastal and in the AWO area (named after the towns of Arnstadt, Wechmar and Ohrdruf) that had been one for many years

could evade public processing because all those involved and/or knowing those responsible agreed in 1945 to cover the story.

A few years ago we dared to lift the lid a little because we simply wanted to know what actually happened in the Green Heart of Germany during the war and at its end. Of course, we weren't the first to take on this topic, and we certainly won't be the last, given the current state of affairs. The interest grows

increasingly, which some contemporaries register with uneasiness.

At this point it would lead us too far if we wanted to repeat again the statements and assertions made in our earlier works. Let's make it short: In our opinion, the AWO area and its surroundings were a high-technology zone of the Third Reich, which - largely underground - was to create the secret weapons of the second generation, including the German atomic bomb, the associated delivery systems and a few others unpleasant things belonged. Witnesses claimed in statements, letters and GDR interrogation protocols that three wonder weapons were tested in March 1945: on March 4, 1945 a small stat bomb, on March 12 another "special weapon" and on March 16, 1945 one far more than that Capabilities and performance data of the V-2 long-range missile.

Of course, we knew in advance that the publication of related information, evidence and allegations would provoke massive opposition, since it is well known that it has never been easy to swim against the tide of established knowledge and established opinion. We deal with the contradiction and the skepticism

no problem for those who oppose us, as long as the arguments of the critics are also real arguments, i.e. the point is at stake. But unfortunately we have to state that the "criticism" also refers to the people, i.e. us, and that the attacks are increasing in intensity. This book hadn't even come out yet—but the publishers were already promoting it, and certain people were already sharpening their - , "knives" to think (as read) how best to "hunt us down." You're used to a lot, but sometimes even we can still be amazed at the level at which some contemporaries act that can no longer be beaten.

Who cares, the principle has always applied here: »Many enemies, much honor«. It is - let that be clear once more

clarified - it is not our task to proselytize or "convince" any individuals, we rather want to work out contradictions and give food for thought. The only problem seems to be that you can nudge people as often as you want and still not start a thought process. This is a purely psychological—perhaps also a physiological—subject for which we do not feel responsible. There are specialists for this who wear white coats ...

The fact that many people today are skeptical when they are supposed to accept and digest new information that doesn't seem to fit into the worldview they have grown fond of is not so new and is probably due to the fact that people like to believe they know the truth. A real skeptic, however, must - this is what the constantly nagging doubt demands - constantly question his own position and his view of things. How a true skeptic then arrives at a view that is valid for him or a firm position on a certain topic is puzzling because it is logically impossible. Again, this is a problem, but this time a philosophical one.

Occasionally the behavior of certain people turns out to be grotesque. Some people feel called upon to take action in the tradition of Robin Hood, the avenger of the poor in ancient Britain, in order to bring the "truth" to the people and to demand evidence. Sure, today these people no longer roam the country with bows and arrows, because that would cause a stir, but they feel called upon to bring their protest to the people in a different way. Unfortunately, the intended effect - namely to challenge us - turned out to be the opposite, because many of those interested in the topic thought that those who were being acted against here would probably have a great story on the track if such measures were taken.

As for the requested evidence, it is not delivered to order, it takes a lot of effort, time and money to develop it. And whoever has them then also decides when to reveal them. Some critics might swell their crests and burst their collars, but ultimately it doesn't matter. With all the nervous talk about "evidence" it is forgotten that one cannot always provide this alone, but needs the support of other people or institutions, so a publication often takes a lot of time to be able to be completed, whereby about the "Where" and "how" there are sometimes very different views that need to be weighed up. So it can happen that sometimes everything is decided differently at the very last minute

will. We just want to say this much: The near future will show that we are correct in our basic considerations. Whether the corresponding presentation of the facts is now carried out by others or by us is rather irrelevant, because this is what matters.

At this point we do not want to hide the fact that our

Books were not only received with skepticism or criticism, but were also a stimulus for many people to do their own research. To this day we experience it with great regularity that, for example, descendants of former participants contact us to perhaps find out what projects their father or grandfather was working on at one time.

In this way, it is always possible to shed at least some light on some dark family histories and to find an explanation as to why the old gentlemen brushed aside certain topics after the war or even left the room. Such experiences strengthen our belief that we are on the right path. The fact that some believe that we are on the wrong track may not affect them. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and we present our perspective here.

The present work, which should also be clearly emphasized, serves the sole purpose of completing the testimonies presented in our last joint book *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich*, which appeared at the end of 2002, and to show some new information that the AWO area or the importance of Thuringia.

In order to avoid any misunderstandings from the outset, it should be pointed out that we remain committed to the agreement with witnesses not to name names - regardless of whether this arouses criticism or weakens our position. It's a fact that very few people in the know agree to revealing their identity. Anyone who knew something or was involved in special projects had taken an oath. And strange as it may seem to us today, those who discarded it still feel committed (though sometimes not fully) to it.

These people had

and have different views of many things in life, especially when it comes to dealing with real or supposed secrets. These views may now seem outdated, especially since everything is different today: if - we have experienced this several times - a request is made to treat this or that information confidentially, it usually takes less than three days to read the whole thing on the Internet or get a call from a bystander to tell you the "news." How times have changed!

At this point, however, let us also address a few factual criticisms. In *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich* we had published, among other things, what we called the "Rittermann Briefe". In the meantime, this has been discussed a great deal and often. Many believe it to be a forgery, but have overlooked the fact that the potential "forgery" or "forgers" included some information in these letters that was new to the research at the time (although some now stubbornly claim the opposite). These relate, among other things, to the location of some underground objects. Of course, it is always easy to dismiss these letters - which of course also contain inaccurate/incorrect information and various contradictions - as forgeries. We had already pointed out this problem in our book *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich** and suspected that other people than Hans Rittermann could also be responsible for the writing.

It is quite possible that the person Hans Rittermann may not have written the letters himself, but rather someone close to him or someone from the environment of the

* Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner: *The atomic bomb and the Third Reich. The secret of the Arnstadt-Wechmar-Ohrdruf triangle*, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2002, pp. 16-21 ff.

former Ministry for State Security of the GDR (MfS) initiated or launched these letters because they had the relevant information (we now have some indications that a certain MfS group was deeply involved in certain things).

It is difficult to assess what the letters really are. It's like a half-filled beer glass: for some it's half empty, for others it's half full. For us, figuratively speaking, it is half full, and in due course we will perhaps show that information hidden in the letters reveals the location of certain facilities with an almost brilliant simplicity. Such hidden information could only be slipped in by someone with insider knowledge.

But not only the Rittermann letters are under attack
guessed: The same thing happened with the two Freier letters that appeared in our first book, *The Secret of the German Atomic Bomb* had been published. Let's just at this point
to single out one criticism that we have been confronted with.
It was said that Freier was a relatively young man at the time of the war and could not possibly have had the knowledge he reported.

Of course, we do not know what information Freier had during the war and what he only obtained in the years that followed. But at no time did he know everything, but only had information on certain areas - and here, too, no complete information.

The argument that he was too young for his position at the time is irrelevant. On the one hand, experienced specialists in all possible fields were certainly needed for the S-III project. On the other hand, numerous young people who came from universities and colleges and were brought up in the spirit of National Socialism were also deployed

had been. These people were considered reliable in the sense of the National Socialist worldview and must have understood the opportunity they were being offered.

Recently, certain people have felt the need to distribute the original (or what they consider to be the original) letters of the Rittermann. The only curious thing is that - according to everything one sees and hears - this does not take place in a complete form, as one should actually expect from the "defenders of the truth". For example, the letter from Rittermann, in which he (or the person claiming to be him) referred to the founding of an association called SDI, is missing from the descriptions that have come to our attention. This abbreviation was chosen most unhappily - certainly unintentionally - because it happened to correspond with a much older designation denoting a particular structure (which few people know), which prompted immediate reactions from some people associated with that structure. Why is nothing

reported on by those who are now publishing the letters "in full"?

A German historian who subscribed to the falsification hypothesis in relation to the "Rittermann letters" was probably a little hasty, as he claimed to us - going into the corresponding indications of Rittermann - that there had been no underground atomic research in Thuringia, only the basement of the middle school in Stadtilm and the rooms of an object known to him were relevant for such considerations. For his part, Rittermann had informed crystal clear: »... Two research centers will be relocated to Thuringia in the next few days, a) Stadtilm with Diebner/Gerlach, b)

Lehester [Lehesten] with Ohnesorge/Reichspost. Both will use the associated facilities in the area of the military training area and the facility west of Arnstadt. The vehicles only run under at night

SS guards.* Elsewhere, Rittermann had let it be known that Lehesten had not only worked on testing V-2 engines.

In this context, a document was handed over to us showing that Prof. Gerlach, who was responsible for the coordination of German atomic research, was looking for a place to accommodate nuclear physics research in 1944, which clearly had nothing to do with Stalin, but with another interesting section of Turingia.

In this document**, excerpts of which we will publish below, it is highly probable that an underground location was sought for the Reichspost group involved in atomic research. The area in question concerns the area of the slate quarries south-east of Saale/Saalfeld, and Prof. Gerlach was recommended an expert who could help him further in this regard.

COUNCIL OF STATE PROFESSOR DR. ASTEL

Jena, March 1, 1944

Rector of the Friedrich Schiller University

Mr

professor dr Walter Gerlach

COPY

Munich 22

Ludwigstr. 17

Tgb. No. 132

44 FR

Dear Prof. Gerlach!

In response to your letter of February 24th, which was sent on February 27th. came into my hands

* Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner: The atomic bomb and the Third Reich. The secret of the Arnstadt-Wechmar-Ohrdruf triangle, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2002, pp. 26-27, or in the Rittermann letter of May 2002 on p. 4.

** BA, R26/II, Volume 45.

I can inform you today, March 1, that I spoke personally to the General Plenipotentiary for the Labor Deployment, Reich Governor Gauleiter Sauckel, about your matter and that I have campaigned for them to be accommodated with us. Sauckel is very willing to support your project. Incidentally, he was already informed about something of the sort from a personal discussion with the Reichsmarschall that took place the previous week.

At first the Gauleiter thought that the fairy grottos were too damp, there were several better options, namely in the form of caves or absolutely bombproof underground rooms, which were mined in abundance by the mining of the slate in our Gau, namely in the eastern Thuringian Forest will, have arisen.

In terms of transport, the location of the subterranean spaces in question would also be favourable. The slate quarries in question are south-east of Saalfeld/Saale on the main line. I have agreed with the Reich governor that I will give you the address of the responsible head of the Thuringian mining authority, Bergrat Lohf, Saalfeld/Saale, Thüringisches Bergamt, Schloß (Telephone Saalfeld/Saale 2368), and that you will discuss everything else with this man directly. This is undoubtedly the quickest way. Bergrat Lohf was directly instructed by the Plenipotentiary of the Reich Governor, Gauleiter Sauckel, to make himself available to you and to make an effort to find something suitable with you. I recommend that you get in touch with him directly and yours

to express wishes.

If I were you, I wouldn't talk to him about nuclear physics research, I would just tell him the prerequisites and conditions of these subterranean rooms with accessories. I often fear that important things are not kept sufficiently secret in Germany. That

If this is the case, you can see it in Peenemünde and similar [...]

Insofar as it is claimed that Thuringia has played no role whatsoever in relation to (underground) German nuclear research, that the middle school and its cellars in Stadtilm are everything and the witnesses a la Rittermann probably made up all the different information out of their fingers (which is why one can only assume it was a falsification), then we are allowed to contradict this view, because the document just presented shows quite obviously that that Prof. Walther Gerlach was still looking for a place to accommodate another facility for nuclear physics in Thuringia, long after Stadtilm had been "booked". And maybe there was a lot more...

Unfortunately, we have the impression that some amateur and professional historians - to give a visual comparison - when it comes to a bowl of soup containing new "vegetables" (i.e. new information), it is not about spooning out the soup and closing it digest, but to look for the hair in it to throw it away. That's not our way, that's not our style. Anyone who tries to come to terms with history in this way shouldn't be surprised if they can't resolve the contradictions that appear and others feel provoked into doing their own research.

In our opinion, the problem that is revealed in relation to the Rittermann letters in general runs deeper: many people read the letters, but they do not understand them. Perhaps, in order to show that it contained a great deal of novel information at the time it appeared, we should have reprinted some paragraphs at the end of 2002 which we felt at the time, for certain reasons, should have been left out. We are still of the opinion that there are passages

there that shouldn't be published. If others think they have to publish the letters in full, then please do so.

Notably, certain are also interested
Authorities for the Rittermann letters. Recently received one
Person who immediately spread this on the Internet, allegedly the call from a
representative of an LKA agency. People wanted to know what opinion the person
had on the letter and on the probably somewhat strange people who were bringing
it to the people. Somehow it was quickly agreed that the whole thing was a fake,
and the person probably felt a little gutted that the officials had the same opinion
as he did. Of course, the gentlemen (and ladies) from the LKA are professionals
and know how to create an "atmosphere" through clever questions and
formulations, which, by the way, every good salesman also learns to lull his
customers. But something is wrong here: If the Rittermann letters are forgeries,
why is a special department of the LKA interested in them? And above all: why
have investigations been carried out since the letters appeared - and it has been
a few years now - apparently without any results? Do you seriously want to make
us believe that the authorities are unable to find out anything? We can't believe
that, when even we, with comparatively modest means, managed to track down
some interesting things. (As an aside, it should be noted that a number of years
ago a local investigating officer was repeatedly offered cooperation, for which
there are witnesses. However, practically nothing happened in this regard, which
is difficult for us to understand to this day in view of the complexity and
explosiveness of the topic.)

Leaving aside the investigations of certain authorities,
so it is already clear that it is the one we are dealing with

The subject is a particularly sensitive story that contains several elements that could set the famous ball rolling: strange activities by the Nazis during the war, "rumors" about high-technology developments and related weapon tests, the use of thousands of prisoners, most of whom died, and a secret of a special kind that is slowly rising up after all these decades and makes the historiography in certain parts unbelievable. Something like this is not without consequences, because once people start thinking, they ask questions. And these questions create, if only subliminally, unrest.

And that is to be avoided, true to the motto that rest is the first duty of the citizen.

Official historiography is now viewed with caution by us, because all too often history is presented as it should have been and not as it really happened. Unfortunately, this has always been the case and is not a modern invention, because the winners have always written history. None other than the British Field Marshal Montgomery once said, and this statement can no longer be surpassed in clarity, that the writing of history is the final victory of the victors over the vanquished. The fact that the associated one-sidedness in historiography can ultimately have fatal consequences is also not new, because an old adage says that those who do not know their past are doomed to repeat it. The fact that word of this wisdom has not yet spread can be noticed every day all over the world. The only strange thing is that prominent personalities everywhere demand that the story has to be worked through truthfully and completely, which obviously doesn't (always) happen. On May 8, 1985, the then President of the Federal

Republic of Germany, Richard von Weizsäcker, before the German Bundestag:
»We need and have the strength to look the truth in the face without
embellishment or distortion. Anyone who closes his eyes to the past is blind
to the present.«*

We can only fully agree with this statement.
But in reality things seem a little different
to look like, and in Germany in particular, people seem to be particularly "objective"
about histories pertaining to World War II. What very few people know: The
Federal Republic of Germany has contractually submitted to the representation of
history favored by the former Allies in relation to the beginning, course and end of
the war. This amazing and remarkable fact

We didn't find out, it was worked out by the former Bundeswehr general Gerd
Schultze-Rhonhof when he researched numerous domestic and foreign sources
for a book on the causes of the Second World War. Schultze Rhonhof is quoted
below, especially since he gives verifiable sources for what he says:

»What was confusing for me about German literature was that the first
historiography after the war was compiled under legal conditions that imposed
limits on research. In the Germany Treaty of 1955, Article 7 (1), it was stipulated
that 'German courts and authorities ... must treat all judgments and decisions'
from the Nuremberg trials 'as legally valid and effective in every respect'. (Among
the court's decisions were the "findings" about the course of events leading up to
the war. They are in the reasoning for the judgment. The judgments could

* Quoted in: Arnold Kramish: The Griffin. Paul Rosbaud - the man who let
Hitler's nuclear plans fail, Kindler Verlag, Munich 1987, p. 323.

according to the court's stipulations, even without evidence being taken or against the evidence of the defense.* This opened the door to the subjective view of the victorious powers and the defeated Germans were obliged by court order to adopt this view.«**

Schulze-Rhonhof goes on to point out that this resulted in the obligation for the German authorities to treat the "assessments" that came about in this way as legally effective without restrictions, whereby the ministries of education in the federal states are obliged to include this view of things in the history books of the to include schools. Schulze

Rhonhof further:

"The research officials are bound by an oath of service to this Article 7 of the Germany Treaty and thus to a reading of 'history' that was made binding in Nuremberg."***

Now some might get the idea that such contractual stipulations are long history and therefore outdated. However, this does not seem to be the case, as can be seen from the continuation of the text: »... In 1990 the binding force of the judgments of the

Nuremberg trials was extended once more by contract. In 1990 the Germany Treaty was replaced by the Two Plus Four Treaty and the victorious powers insisted that Article 7(1) of the 1955 treaty should remain in force. In the >13. Agreement of 27./28. September 1990 on the Germany Treaty and the Transition Treaty, which accompanies the Two Plus Four Treaty, this was written again by the German side

* Gerd Schultze-Rhonhof: 1939. The war that had many fathers. The long run-up to World War II. Olzog Verlag GmbH, Munich, 2003, p. 12. The author refers to Articles 19 and 20 of the statutes of the Nuremberg Military Tribunal. See ITM, Vol. 1, pp. 7-9.

** Ibid., p. 12.

*** Ibid., p. 13.

guaranteed.* Today, readers do not know where historians and authors from the early Federal Republic law-abidingly wrote down the victorious reading of history and left subsequent historians and authors as a misleading legacy.«**

brave words! But history, when adopted by decree, can hardly be objective in its entirety, even if absolutely incontrovertible facts and truths in one

such decree should be included. In this context we are reminded of the words of a man who played a not inconsiderable part in the history of the United States of America: Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), third US President, who once stated: »Only the lie needs the support of the State authority, the truth stands up by itself.« For the word »lie« one has to use the term »subjective view of the victors« in relation to the situation today, but otherwise Jefferson hits the nail on the head, because truths never have to be enacted by law.

If one analyzes the situation precisely, we are dealing with an accumulation of information, indications, facts and facts in relation to the topic we are dealing with, which (could) at least partially undermine the current historical picture. As a result, it can only be expected in exceptional cases that the German official mold will provide help in clarifying the subject, and perhaps then if certain legacies in Thuringia's soil could emerge as a danger. But hardly anything will happen on a voluntary basis, right?

However matters develop

* Gerd Schultze-Rhonhof: 1939. The war that had many fathers. The long run-up to World War II. Olzog Verlag GmbH, Munich, 2003, p. 13. The author refers to the two-plus-four contract as a source, Prof. Stern, p. 227 f. and BM Justice of January 22, 1997.

** Ibid., p. 13.

- and no matter how fierce the resistance of those who, in the sense of the old historiography, know everything much better, the fact is that the stone we have want -, mentioned has already been rolled. In the meantime, international people have also come together and organized structures who want to get to the bottom of the matter. And remarkably, in the meantime, authors who previously completely rejected the topic of a German nuclear weapon or only touched it with pointed fingers have been taught otherwise. That was the aim of our work: to stimulate reflection that parts of the German history of the Second World War were perhaps different from what was previously believed to be known.

Since the topic has meanwhile gained a certain momentum of its own, it will no longer be possible to cover it in the future, regardless of whether we are involved in its further processing and clarification or not.

At this point, let us also say something about that Determine the value of testimonies, which play a not inconsiderable role in our previous presentations and also in this book. Many believe that reports from witnesses, especially when they relate events that happened several decades ago, must be viewed critically because witnesses present things subjectively, confuse historical processes or even tend to fantasize. All of this may be true to a certain percentage. However, if testimonies about specific events that are identical in many aspects arrive, such as what happened in the AWO area and its surroundings, then you should listen a little more closely and try to check the contents of these reports for their truthfulness.

Interestingly, what is claimed in the statements is yes not completely out of thin air, but can be

for example, with existing documents, aerial photographs or known historical processes.

With regard to the reports of witnesses, we do not have the phenomenon that something completely abstruse is claimed, but the information in its entirety is to be understood in such a way that one seems to have overlooked important things so far, the historiography is therefore incomplete. The fact that what has been forgotten is of enormous importance and partially overturns the history that has been taught so far is another piece of paper.

It should also not be forgotten that numerous established historical accounts are based to a not inconsiderable extent on the statements of contemporary witnesses. In this context, the example of Albert Speer should be remembered, who said many contradictory things in official documents and who developed a view of things after the war that is astonishing when you consider that he was one of the main people responsible for the Third Reich .^{*} Some who interviewed him asked critical questions, but hardly anyone had the idea that Speer misrepresented some things completely or was knowingly telling an untruth. What he put on record later became hundreds of thousands of times

^{*} The mere fact that Albert Speer was not sentenced to death by the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal should make one suspicious. How could a man who was responsible for the German armaments program, which really got going under his leadership, prolonging the war and causing the deaths of millions of innocent people, be spared when people who only belonged to the second ranks of the NS - were assigned to those responsible, were handed over to the strand? What is the mystery surrounding Speer that has not been revealed to this day? The testimonies already known and the reports newly published in this book provide a plausible answer to this question: Speer made sure that the atomic bomb and the delivery system provided for it were not used, for which the victors were grateful in a certain respect and let live.

printed and often too uncritically accepted as "historical truth", albeit with subjective traits. Although there were people who did not believe his explanations, they have unfortunately hardly been heard to this day.

And what is true of Speer is even more true of some German nuclear scientists who after the war either knew nothing, denied everything, or told some things only to a certain extent. Hardly anyone seems to have noticed that there are contradictions in their descriptions, especially when you see what e.g. B. Messrs. Heisenberg and Diebner knew how to report on their activities and their successes. Those who later conducted interviews with the leading figures in German nuclear research should have been criminalists, not credulous story writers. So it could happen that little by little a representation interspersed with lies and half-truths could establish itself in people's minds, which today - after almost six decades - seems so firmly cemented that it will be difficult to get a different, more truthful view of the To present things, especially since - as the saying goes - nobody wants to know the truth anyway.

We are certain that more and more building blocks will gradually be assembled that will shake the assertion that Germany did not work on the atomic weapon and the necessary means of delivery during the Second World War.

Of course, due to the complexity of the topic, it is inevitable that certain "turbulences" may arise in the future, which the outsider may hardly be able to understand exactly. Don't be discouraged:

The decisive factor is not what is said today about the material presented by us and others, what is decisive is what judgment a future historiography will make, what the things from a larger

time distance and with more objectivity. We have emphasized time and again that the process of putting together the building blocks that make the puzzle more and more visible is likely to take a long time. Anyone who thinks they are being handed all the facts on a silver platter on an ad hoc basis has understood nothing. Almost six decades ago it was decided to cover a topic that would have been of enormous importance in understanding what really happened at the end of the war. This was done very thoroughly, but not thoroughly enough.

The victors of World War II had more than 50 years to disseminate their subjective view of German high-tech developments—and establishment historians were actively involved—some even in anticipatory obedience—in publicizing the "insights" thus gained . For all those who want to swim against this current, it will certainly be a difficult and often joyless, sometimes even dangerous matter if you look at the historical processing alone. But who is also interested in the study of people

can inspire - how they work, react, act is rewarded with a -, the great deal of knowledge, provided he has first rid himself of all illusions regarding human "reason", for he realizes that the so-called process of evolution has long since come to a standstill (man has been "civilization" for 6000 years) and in the meantime sometimes even paranoid conditions prevail: Some have a private and an official opinion - with regard to the overall topic dealt with, which has an incredibly polarizing character, others have an opinion before they know certain pieces of information at all, and still others are already staking out their claims even though they haven't found anything yet. then

there are contemporaries who know a lot but say nothing. Others say a lot but know nothing. And some even think they know everything much better. We encountered all of these character types and many more in our work, which was a good school for life. We are sincerely grateful for this and will draw the appropriate conclusions from it. Fortunately, there are also many exceptions, open and selfless people who have supported us in our work and to whom we would like to say a big thank you. Many have contacted us, many have written to us - but we could not answer everyone due to time constraints, for which we would like to ask for your understanding. It was often the details that helped us to gradually piece together the puzzle of the events in Thuringia at the end of the war.

We are far from claiming that we already have a comprehensive picture of what is happening in the AWO area

had. That is most certainly not the case. certain structures

but there are signs, and these are encouraging enough to say that our fundamental claims need not be abandoned. These structures document that

Thuringia was connected with the development of nuclear weapons, but here also - and this book will show - other technological developments were running, which in turn had an impact on other events and places. We will deal with many of the new features in more detail, many of which will only be mentioned briefly.

Finally, a note on a particular type of allegation. Every now and then it is used by certain people

claims that the facts we have shown served to glorify the Third Reich. Such an "argument", which, by the way, can only be found in this country, is not only irrelevant and perfidious, it also shows the whole point

clear that certain contemporaries have understood little or nothing and for this reason have to act with defamatory statements. The relationships and achievements of German high technology that we have described would have been impossible without the use of prisoners and the exploitation of their labor power, and this should be emphasized very clearly here. The processing of these events also serves to clarify the reasons why so many people were used in the secret construction and technology projects of the Third Reich in a special section of Thuringia and died as potential and actual bearers of the secret. The technology was bought with human blood, which is why any kind of glorification is out of the question. However, there seem to be certain people who do not want the connection just mentioned to become obvious and who also otherwise with it

slowly emerging picture of actual events seem to have certain problems. They make themselves - and they

The future will show - consciously or unconsciously morally complicit in the cover-up of war crimes as well as the denial of the dimension of human annihilation. As will be shown in this book, the number of prisoners deployed in the AWO area may have been far greater than previously claimed. The day will come when the public will see the true dimension of it all. It remains to be seen how much time this will take. Looking back at recent history, it has sometimes taken decades for the true facts of some subjects to come to light. But what are ten, twenty or fifty years ahead of history?

But just a moment!

Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner

News about the events at the end of the war in Thuringia

The following information and witness statements are a continuation of what we published in our book *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich*.

Before we turn to the details, we would like to let you know that some of the following statements are already two or more years old and that we have had enough time to do the appropriate research in the meantime to be able to say that the references to the special meaning of certain Sections of Thuringia more and more dense. We publish these statements in order to provide interested researchers with a few more hints that might be of interest for their own work.

In some cases we have been successful in following the tracks, in other cases we have made little progress. Sometimes we had to realize with dismay that we had arrived a little too late because the person in question had already died or had "suddenly" left the country.

This is what happened in the case of engineer MM, who sent us a written statement through a contact, which was quite detailed and an excerpt of which we published in 2002.*

An acquaintance involved in our research tried to follow the trail left behind and was successful - at least in part. The document he wrote for us is briefly presented here:

»Protocol of the attempt to speak to Mr. Ing. MM at his house in [...].

* Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner: *The atomic bomb and the Third Reich. The secret of the triangle Arnstadt-Wechmar-Ohrdruf*, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2002, pp. 235-245.

On February 17, 2002, I searched between 3:10 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. the house of Mr. MM [...], [...] to question him about his activities in the Third Reich. My visit was not announced.

The house, a semi-detached house, is located in a very well-kept single-family and semi-detached house settlement on [...], almost immediately next to the adjoining city forest. The residential complex probably dates from the 1950s.

Seen from the fence, Mr M. lives in the right half of the semi-detached house. The doorbell shows his and another name. The house has two floors and possibly a developed attic. On the street side (to the east) there are two large windows on both floors, one of which on the ground floor was half closed with a heavy brown fabric curtain, the second had blinds. House and part of the property are excellently maintained, the mailbox was empty.

Despite repeated ringing of both names, no one opened. After a few minutes, however, a man of about 35 years, athletic, well-trained build, dark hair, alert eyes, sharp features, about 175 centimeters tall, came out of the left half of the house and watched me. I spoke to him and he replied in fluent, almost print-ready German with a distinct Russian accent. Although I praised him for his excellent knowledge of German and tried to engage him in a conversation about his homeland, he repeatedly evaded my questions about his background and work.

I found out the following about Mr. M.: Mr. M. has been in the USA with his wife for almost a year, but was at his house for a short time around Christmas 2001, possibly a little earlier, to then go to his wife to return. At the same time as the move, an American "couple" moved into the Müller house, who [...] were busy, also looking after the house and taking the mail for Herr Müller.

I then repeated to provoke my interlocutor: "That wouldn't have been necessary, after all, according to my information, you've been living in this house for about a year and could have looked after Ms half." The wiry Russian saw me completely dumbfounded, said nothing, artificially laughed after about three seconds, then said: "That would be very nice," and immediately ended the conversation by going back into the house."

Unfortunately, we did not reach Mr. M. (anymore). Strange, however, that his house was looked after by an American (!) 'couple' while the competition, in the form of a Russian, lived next door. Multiculturalism in its purest form? That Mr M. and his wife probably were not out of the house for long periods of time, as can be inferred from the fact that the mailbox is emptied regularly. Hadn't Mr M. heard anything about a forwarding order or the possibility of poste restante? The whole thing seemed constructed to us, you could smell the roast. And that shouldn't be the only time we've found that some people don't live free lives, but are under the control of others.

We had considered for some time where we should start publishing further testimonies and finally decided to continue with the events that took place around the witness Maria W. In order to catch up, we want to reprint your last letter (pp. 209-216), which was published in our 2002 book *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich*, including our marginal notes, some of which have been updated, so that more can follow. We would like to emphasize that we consider the statements, both known and yet to be presented, to be credible and purposeful in their entirety

but leave it to our readers to form their own opinion. Let's let Ms. Maria W. have her say:

»[...] I would like to write a few things to you today, while it is still possible and I can.

Congratulations on the new book!!!* The friends of the Comrades are enthusiastic about your courage, and the truth has now reached the light of day, although unfortunately you didn't use Hans' letters.** Maybe there is a book 2? —if I ever live to see it.

I didn't know you went to Dr. Weidemann-Hoffmann in Canada and to Dr. Freier in South America also had connections. You were equated with Hans, unfortunately both are no longer alive, although Dr. Freier didn't end his life entirely voluntarily. His house was a fireball after his horrible death, although before that some people from America took something that Dr. suitor in the living state would not have given these people.

Oskar Mühlheim was a good mining engineer, but a 1000 percent Nazi (>Mein Führer und ich<), but also a great coward, especially after 1945 [...] Unfortunately he said and gave too much to the Russians. Then he wanted [even] more [money], which went against the grain of the Russians. Then he got caught by [...], and the end was an urn in Leipzig.

Ellrich could be found on every street, but he couldn't get to the objects. After 1945 he helped many people, respect. Schörnig was also unable to achieve anything against Ellrich. horst

* In this and the following statements, Ms. W. referred to the people or their testimonies that we had presented in the book *The Secret of the German Atomic Bomb* (Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg, 2001).

** These were then published in: Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner: *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich. The secret of the triangle Arnstadt—Wechmar-Ohrdruf*, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2002.

W. worked directly for Ardenne. Why does he say Greifswald?

I know his address in Dresden, he was able to go to France in 1971 and worked there for Ardenne.

The information about Dr. I don't understand Kammler, Hans told me personally that he would give you all the information about Kammler where he was after 1945. Schörnig visited Kammler in the CSSR five times and tried to get the diaries for a lot of money. Kammler didn't have the research and result diaries, however, his skin was more important to him. His former aide-de-camp in Regensburg had these and handed them over to the page.

author] for money to the Americans.

The detonation of the little "A-weapon" could have brought you something more and bigger. It weighed exactly 180 g*, the scaffolding had been erected by the Fiedler company from Arnstadt. 520 prisoners and 14 SS men were simply gone, there was nothing left of them. Due to burns, around 650-800 prisoners, but also 36 SS men, were shot.** The corpses were burned near Mühlberg.*** Mr. Mehner, you founded an association in Arnstadt

* With regard to the weight of the »bomb«, there are now three different specifications, which are 100, 127 and 180 g. It is unclear what caused these differences in the witness statements. However, these numbers are well below what is usually considered feasible for a nuclear weapon considering the critical mass.

** The figures for the number of people injured and killed in the nuclear explosion also differ. In all cases, however, there are several hundred dead and injured people, as well as affected SS personnel, what seems convincing given the testing of a new type of weapon.

*** The area in question has since been roughly determined. The American units, who also inspected this section after conquering the area, had the site photographed. One of the pictures came into our possession and is printed in this book.

which is very good on the one hand, but on the other hand you are now being monitored even more. Not only the BND, MAD, VS and state security of the FRG, unfortunately other organizations and institutions are now also attached to the association. On Monday we already had a list of the names of the people present in the Henne and one of the probable ones

Members from Israel in hands.* Here you can see how small the world is and how fast some can work. We're not just friends either. The SS organization lives on today in the children's children in the old FRG [...] and is very active and fast. They worry that their [grand]fathers' secret might be revealed. We have nothing to do with these SS people, we just want to help German science to establish international law. [...]

Surely you have heard of the large-scale police operation on May 20 [2001] in the Jonas Valley, where Russians were found injured, etc. The Russians had [taken] something out of the mountain at kilometers five to six... and were supposed to exchange things for money in handed over to Arnstadt. Another group (already mentioned above) who were against it had heard of this. The four Russians were to be shot or died in a car accident to be brought. A secret service was quicker, although unfortunately some things went wrong, gas got in the wrong direction, so a stabbing was necessary in the fight. The documents and things are in I. This is for your information.

I would like, if there is a book 2, in which something by Hans too reading is to address some key points from my point of view again.

The role of Dr. Kammlers in the object >Burg< and [am] Eulen-

* The association was founded on June 16, 2001 in the "Goldene Henne" inn and lodging house in Arnstadt and bears the name History and Technology Society Greater Jonastal e. V. Th. Mehner is no longer a member of this association.

Berg, the role of [...], his activity in Arnstadt against Mayor Huhn, his behavior in Weimar and his connection to the SS (in 1945 he had more say than the mayor in the town hall) should be investigated. [...] The role of Schörnig, [...], there must still be witnesses in Arnstadt and descendants of the many people he brought to the Buchenwald concentration camp after 1945 and who never saw Arnstadt again. [...] If there is no VdK in Arnstadt, you would have to get the names of the people [...].

My circulation is up again.

According to our agreement, as Hans has already written, I am not allowed to tell you and show you the exact objects, but I will give you the key points again.

>Amt 9< is the starting point and the key to all information and objects. If you still don't have >Amt 9<, then look for >Amt 600< in the Steiger-Wald in Erfurt [...].

Or >Amt800< [...].

The Polte 2 Rudisleben. The construction documents of the company Engelhardt, Brömel and Fiedler in Arnstadt are definitely still there. [...]"

The letter was interrupted here, Ms. Maria W. had been admitted to a clinic because of her poor state of health. There, another person helped her to complete the letter, which, however, made parts of the letter seem a bit chaotic and sometimes imprecise. Nevertheless, we try to render it linguistically smooth:

»Since the state of health has become very bad, ask me [...] to continue writing. (The condition is unfortunately very, very bad, only the spirit could move mountains. Also her husband will not survive this month.) I don't know the information, so it may happen that I will write some things wrong.

The Russians had many things, but they couldn't know all of them and couldn't take them with them. [...]

In Luisental, next to the railway system, there were some test and production factories. Parts from Nordhausen, Dessau, Celle and the MDW Arnstadt were processed there.

In Sitzendorf in the naval camp, where the SS worked until 1952, there were no Russians afterwards, and GDR citizens were forbidden [entry].

In Wechmar ask for a Größ or Körbs* (I don't remember the name correctly). He was head of the Nazis there, but not an SS man. After [the end of the war?] 1945 he was with the Americans and testified there for Speer, gave tips on the Seeberg, the flight test site in Wechmar, the SS accommodations in Seesdorf and [on] the files in the castle in Güntersleben, those of Göbels [Goebbels?] were housed there.

Because of the statements about Speer and the products from the old kiln, he [Körbs] was released by the Americans, and this was agreed with the Russians. He has walled up some precious things in his objects. «

We cannot expect our readers to read the following paragraph in the original, so we have to reproduce it in our own words and using a few quotations.

It was further said that "the MDW with its gravity facility in Eulenberg" and "with the experimental explosives facility" and "the experimental canal" were important. In addition, we should take care of "the technical facilities on the Eulenberg" as well as in the area of the small Haidenholz and the corridors represented twice each with the designations "Red Hut" and "White Hut". "The entire Bienstein with all its facilities, from the railway system to the center" and those located here on two floors play a very special role

* The man's name was Rudolf Körbs and he was mayor.

built halls used by the Russians. They are so big that you can park about 200 trucks on each floor!

But we should also direct our attention to other things, such as the air shafts at the Eichfeld Vorwerk and the aforementioned fusion plant*, the latter of which was worked on until 1952. Also important for our considerations are »the places of Wölfis [and] Crawinkel, where some people still make a good living from the hidden things, or Geschwenda; here, too, many are still in possession of national goods and are now turning them into "money in the western world."

The letter continued:

»By the way, my husband and Hans were on the floors of the halls in 1986, the Russians even had rockets with vehicles there, and the super tanks of the 6th Guards Regiment from Rudisleben were also stored there.

We can only continue writing today, July 11th, 2001.

My friend Maria - she doesn't want me to tell her name here** [...] - is doing very badly, from today she can too

* Maria W. used the term "fusion plant" here for the second time. If she claims to have worked as a technical linguist, it can be assumed that she was familiar with the difference between an accelerator, a nuclear reactor and a fusion plant.

Without wanting to overestimate their statement, the question must be allowed here: Was a fusion plant developed during the Third Reich, and is there a connection here with Nowak's fusion reactor principle? (See: Edgar Mayer & Thomas

Mehner: Hitler and the "Bomb". What status did the German

Atomic research and secret weapon development really?, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2002, pp. 161-176.)

** Matters were complicated by the fact that Ms. Maria W. was operating with a name that was not exact. In the course of time we learned that her correct name was Erika L., whereby the "L." was interpreted by some fellow researchers as "Leimert". It was argued that in the group of physicist Dr. Diebner, who was employed in Stadtilm, a woman Dr. Erika Leimert (continued on page 38)

not move their arms. But she wants to finish this letter to you, and I would like to fulfill her wish.

>[...] I'm not doing well, so [I have] a request to you: do something with the information so that this state wakes up and doesn't bury all of us scientists, from Nazis onwards, yes, we were Nazis, but we had our research, just as every state lives with its research. The Nazi greats were given pensions, they received their works back immediately in the Federal Republic of Germany and now also in your country. We scientists were denied any recognition in Germany. A Herr Lübke took care of that, this great Nazi was present at the objects in the valley, and he worked for the SS, under the direct orders of Dr. chamberman

He brought [the suggestion] to the main staff on the Klipper that the prisoners [who died in the explosion of the weapon on March 4, 1945, editor's note. Author] to hand it over to the fire on the spot, it would save a lot of transport costs that are needed to transport new workers. He lived in Crawinkel with the local BDM leader.

We were scientists and had the z. Z. valid research contracts, we were not responsible for the concentration camps. The prisoners in Rohrensee and in the concentration camp Auschwitz* help us

gave. The Diebner team had been relocated to Stadtilm in 1944, which would agree with the statement by Mrs. Maria W., alias Erika L., that she had been (regularly) deployed in the area from 1944 onwards. Despite a certain plausibility of this argument, it cannot be proven at present that Erika L. is identical to Erika Leimert, even if there has been a statement in the meantime that this is the case (see below).

* Ms. W.'s reference to experiments "in" Auschwitz confirms our belief

Assumption that there actually was a test with a weapon that had a devastating effect, about which, by the way, Minister of Armament Albert Speer was also questioned before the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal. Speer denied any knowledge of such a weapon system (which, as will be shown, was in all probability a blatant lie), although the responsible judge Jackson (further on p. 39)

lost their lives in the attempts, very sorry. We could not assess the extent and impact and would like to bow to the victims and their families. We cannot bring the victims [again] to life, but something must be done to commemorate the victims, not only does the money paid now count for this, [but] the young people must be told the truth so that a time like this does not happen again .

We gave you the dates that belong in the history books, we told you the building blocks.
(Mr. [...] is right about [the number] seven, but our focus is only five.) We told you, with Office 800 and the riser, you have all the keys in your hands. Look for these points and you will have all the solutions to the many questions that are now not verifiable. But always remember, there are people who don't want everything and who are afraid they'll betray SS or Nazi matters, [but] these are matters of German science. With these people, even today, life is zero.

Now I've already said too much, which I'm actually not allowed to write. We too took an oath in 1947
given, but this also says, to preserve life, to
Purpose of the history of German science and for the
Correcting history, each of us has an obligation to tell the truth and, if necessary, to provide written information. So I wish you all every success, [...]

All the best - God be with you.

From the hospital

Yours, Maria W."

relevant statements or documents were available. (See: Nuremberg International Military Tribunal: The Nuremberg War Trial against the Major War Criminals from November 14, 1945 to October 1, 1946, published in Nuremberg 1948, approved special edition, Volume 15 and 16 (in one volume), Komet MA-Service und Verlagsgesellschaft mbH , Frechen, undated, p. 580.

This letter from Ms. W., which we had printed in our book *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich*, was followed by another, which was to be Ms. W.'s last piece of information.

»Dear [...] dear

Mr. [...], dear Mr. [...], after a long time I am supposed to address a few words to you today from [...] from the hospital on Lake Constance. But I have to

I would like to address a few preliminary remarks to you on my own behalf. [...] some serious events happened. Her husband died of cancer in August. Ms. Maria's condition is like this at the moment It's bad that one has to reckon with a death here too. She has internal cancer at the peak of disease. Radiation doesn't help anymore.

She always asks that only her maiden name be used, there is a different name here in the hospital, so I can't really give you a real name today either. Mrs. Maria receives a visit from people, even the big chief doctor makes a bow and brings these people to the door.

Well, the words that Frau Maria asked me to address to you are: 'I hope that you [...] are doing well and that you got through the summer well.

Two good friends told me about [...]. Yes, unfortunately there are always fewer, but life is beautiful too. Incidentally, I had visitors from the community [...], who also brought me greetings from Arnstadt. A coincidence, isn't it?... [...] in any case, I wish [...] good health, things aren't looking good for me.

Dear Mr. Mehner, I had already considered writing to you directly, but then I thought of the new company and the surveillance that it would entail. But they

get through this for sure. They had been to various objects with the company at the practice site. As in Wechmar, their people were also in Rohrensee, in Haidenholz, in Celle, Dessau, Crawinkel, Wölfis and above all in the naval camp in Sitzendorf. I just hope it was always your people, not people posing as your company name. Please be very, very careful.

I would like to address a few key points again: >Amt 900< — make something out of it, the Steiger in Erfurt with all the information, the naval home in Sitzendorf with its entrances, Wechmar with its inn and the facility on [...], Now I can't say the name correctly [...], the area in Rudisleben, etc. You have the results of investigations by Rohrensee. There must also be something about the technical systems in Lübke's documents. We have learned that you have great support from Mr [...], always remember, [...] has worked with [...] and [...] before, both of whom no longer work with him. He has a lot of documents from the area of the SS, nobody can say from where [...].

Now to you sir [...] I haven't heard from you lately. [...] Unfortunately, our information about Wechmar was a bit short, I can't say now whether you were present at the inn, on [...], on the autobahn and on [...], in any case it was everywhere Lord [...] there. Just say hello to this gentleman and see [...]. This observation can [...] help you a lot.

* The locations were all rendered correctly. In fact, at that time members of the association came to the corresponding inspections. However, certain destinations in Celle and Dessau were not included; other people who worked closely with us at the time did research here. Because of the information in this letter, the person who had visited Celle was extremely surprised to have to find out something about it at this point, because the research was carried out in complete silence and confidentiality.

I have to stop now — it just doesn't work anymore.

I wish you all the best — God be with you.

Yours Maria W.«

As a follow-up comment, another person in this letter informed us that Ms. Maria W. was getting worse and worse, which is why her lawyer or notary was there and wrote down her will.

That was definitely the last sign of life from Ms. W. that we received. A few days later we were only informed that Maria W. was doing very badly or that she had died:

»01/12/2002

Dear [...], dear

gentlemen [...], first of

all a good year 2002 to you all and above all good health.

After the many holidays, I'll be [...] back in the beautiful clinic on Lake Constance. Of course, I immediately visited Mrs. Maria W. and found out that her state of health is very, very bad [...], although mentally she was still fully engaged. However, the treating professors and doctors said to me: 'Go to Ms. W. as much as possible, she only has hours left in this world.'

Unfortunately, these gentlemen were right, and so I have to inform you that Ms. Maria W. died on Thursday, January 10, 2002, due to heart failure due to cancer (the sister on duty died peacefully at 5:20 a.m.).

found). The Lord, wherever he may be, grant her eternal rest.

Now some comments: Already
at 10.00 a.m. the body of. one

Undertakers taken away from Cologne. There was in

some problems with the registration of the private clinic. The gentlemen had been commissioned to pick up a woman, Erika L. ... but the doctor treating her had written out the official death certificate in the name of Maria W., just as Mrs. Maria was known everywhere here. There were also a few gentlemen there who spoke to the head of the facility and also to the doctor in charge. One of these gentlemen [...] destroyed the note with a fire in the ashtray and wrote out a new note. As I note

am, Mrs. Maria has no children or successors, so I approached this gentleman and asked where the funeral was taking place. The answer came: 'That's none of your business, we'll take care of it, and that's how the lady wants it.' But I heard from her that she hired a lawyer to take care of the burial and the administration of her belongings, unfortunately she did i forgot the name

On Tuesday, Ms. Maria received a visit from two Japanese citizens, who had actually been with her for a long time and brought her a wonderful bouquet of flowers.

I asked her about it and she only answered me, 'The gentlemen only need a few documents which are very important and which I have in my possession'.

Unfortunately, Ms. Maria never really told me where she actually lived, but her finances must have been very good, otherwise she would not have been able to stay here in this non-public facility for so long and would have been transferred to another facility as she needed nursing care.

With that, I really want to end my letter to you.
I wish you every success and God's blessings in your research work, and please always remember my friend Ms. Maria W. fondly. [...]

All the best to you again, [...]«

We had the opportunity to review part of the operations. Among Mrs. Maria W's visitors was someone she knew from her work in Thuringia, who always tried to downplay his role in the post-war period. The man belonged to the top of the Peenemünde scientists, technicians and engineers and was deployed at the end of the war in the area that interests us. Unfortunately, to this day he is not ready to admit this publicly and thus to reveal his true role in the events in Thuringia.

During the turn of the year 2001/2002 other interesting things happened. On December 18, 2001, a gentleman from the old federal states, who had once belonged to the train station guard in Gotha, reported to an official agency. We have the letter which states:

[...] Mr. [...], I

found out from an acquaintance in [...] or she told me during a visit that a gentleman [...] in [...] about spoke about some events of [...] in connection with the book The Secret of the German Atomic Bomb. Well, I can't confirm everything in the book, but I have to say that there is, probably for the first time, some truth on this subject revealed and written down.

Well, I don't want to write about that, I want to write you about some things that are entered in my war diary and will probably add to the story [...]

My name is [...], I'm 94 years old and was deployed in Gotha from January to April 1945 as Uffzer. with the senior Colonel von Reckow. We were assigned to the station guard, and here it was Captain Wendling from F. EA 19 1. Bath, who was a friend of Speer's. To our group

also belonged to the Uffzer. Lehmann and Corporal Seidel.
Now to my notes from 1945 regarding [...].

07.02. Airplanes are to destroy a staff transport with Reichsgut near Günthersleben. About eight bombs are dropped at Wechmar Cünthersleben thrown on a farm. The staff transport reached the clippers.

08.02. American fighter planes are supposed to destroy a glider in a barn or hall near Wechmar, but shoot into a field barn, killing a few.

28.2. American fighter planes are supposed to destroy the staff of the 6th SS Mountain Infantry Division in the Günthersleben moated castle, but fly to Wechmar.

02.2. Have to bring some cars with museum goods to the staff in Luisental, there is an incident with a Pole in Wechmar.

03/15 On behalf of Speer we have to bring some files to the inn in Wechmar.

03/18 For the first time I see the SS-Dr. Kammler, we also have to bring some files to Wechmar for him and hand them over to the mayor and local group leader, Körbs.

03/21 the dr Kopp must for the 23.03. are ready in the >Löwen<*. We need to organize preparations for a council in the basement of the inn.

03/23 Large consultation of Speer with SS-Dr. Kammler, Fritsch, West and scientists from Stadtilm in the Wechmar inn.

03/24 On behalf of Göring and Speer, Reich's documents have to be taken from Weimar to the cellar of the Wechmar inn.

03/25 We are only on the road with our captain for Speer and have to get documents from Luisental and from the Klipper for the inn to Wechmar and some to the castle for the SS

* This refers to the inn "Zum Goldenen Löwen" in Wechmar.

bring to Günthersleben. We learn that the Führer is in the FHQu near Arnstadt.

03/26 From 3.00 a.m. we are on duty. Our lance corporal collided with Hauptsturmführer Oldeboershuis' car at the Wechmar exit in the direction of the square. He recognized the Hstf. not because he wasn't wearing a uniform and only got into our car after the code name given by Speer was announced. The driver was met by Dr. head treated.

Ten big names were with Speer to this cellar consultation in the inn, which lasted until 2 p.m. Speer ordered us to stay in Wechmar.

03/27 Our captain is completely upset, we don't have one get a new command. At 5 p.m. SS men from SS appear dr Kammler and have to secure documents in the cellars. We learn of an incident in the FHQu with Hitler and Speer. According to orders, some of the SS men had to go to the Rhönberg immediately. At 9.30 p.m. the Leib-SS left the inn thrown because one of Hitler's direct companions has to be accommodated here to sleep.

03/28 From SS Dr. Kammler, from the clipper, we get the order to go to Stadtilm immediately — with a special order.

At 7.30 Speer thanks us for our support, saying that the war may be over for us in a few days; he flew from Stadtilm to Berlin. We need a Dr.

Diebner and his staff, all in civilian clothes, help load four trucks with files and machines, which then drive off with the SS in the direction of Ilmenau. We received some files that we had to drive to the Körbs in Wechmar.

03/29 The Gotha station guard was disbanded. We were supposed to report to the SS in Günthersleben Castle. The SS there in turn gave us some files, which we took to the clipper to SS-Dr. Kammler should bring. A motorcyclist stopped us, Kammler was no longer on or in the clipper, the documents

should go to the local group leader in Wechmar as soon as possible. QGL Körbs was already informed about the documents, we brought them to him in the basement; some SS men worked there. Körbs also gave us food and an order that put us in a materials procurement group for the Gotha aircraft works. We drove in our cars in the direction of Erfurt. Before that, Körbs took away our weapons etc., only our captain kept his pistol, he also said we should take off our badges, they would only bother the Americans.

As far as my notes. From the time in Wechmar I also remember the names Herold and Vierau [correct: Viau, editor's note]. Author] in memory, but I can no longer classify these names at my age.

Besides, we are all bound by an oath, which is still valid today, but at my age of 94, one has to be allowed to say something once in a while. So I would like to say goodbye to you with best wishes

There was no response from the entity that received this letter. A few months later, on August 14, 2002, a second letter from this gentleman arrived:

"[...] Mr [...]!

My name is [...] and I am 95 years old. From October 1944 to April 1945 I was on duty as Uffzer. with the site elder from Gotha, Colonel von Rekow, but from January 1945 my direct superior Dr. Ing. Kammler from the SS, whereby my responsible [superior] Capt. Wendling from F. EA 19 1. Bath. was, which in turn had to do with Minister Speer. Actually, we were then according to the orders of the Wehrmacht location senior AZ. 63 (Gotha 4.10.44), location order regarding accommodation. i.e. deputy Gen. Kdo. IX A. K No. 6008/44

v. 9/12/44 ordered to enforce this order with the Lord Mayors of Gotha and Arnstadt, whereby there were no difficulties in Gotha. But there was one in Arnstadt. Although the Mayor Huhn there was a Nazi, he could not understand many things, such as the use of the prisoners at the MDW* and in Rudisleben. The influx of troops and departments into the AWO area was not his thing either. The construction manager and

Mayor, a Dr. Eibrecht or Elbracht enforced all orders and sometimes overrode the mayor .

On January 4th, 1945 we were assigned to the so-called station guard of the site elder Gotha of the army anti-aircraft art. 2279 or Flakersatzabt. 19 Gotha with Lieutenant Colonel Levens in two groups dr Assigned to Kammler, that is, in order not to attract attention from other groups, we also had to patrol Gotha and Arnstadt.

I belonged to the group of Hptm. Wende with Uffz. Lehmann and Ogefr. Seidel, the other group consisted of Sergeant Bölke, Uffz. Meuer, Uffz. Lehner.** In addition to our location at the station guard in Gotha, we had places to stay in Cafe Leidel and in the >Deutscher Hof, Gotha, in the >Erfurter Hof and in the >Rosenau< in Arnstadt, in the "Lion" and in the "Mill" (daughter grew up with the BDM) and with the pastor in Wechmar and in the castle of Günthersleben.

We received our orders from Colonel Strevens. Author] in connection with SS Standartenfuhrer Gout, who had an office in the moated castle in Günthersleben. The following [places] had to give us support:

* MDW = Central German plant (Arnstadt).

** The data on persons, commands and structures given on this page are correct with small exceptions, which are probably due to spelling mistakes (e.g. with the »Heeres-Flak Art. E. und A. Abtl. 2279« it must be correct. correctly called "... Dept. 279"). See: BA MA, file RW 17/21.

Staff identendant Feißt from the army base administration, air base Gotha air base command; Wechmar: Major Roth, Over awake. Dept. IX/3; Bischleben: Major Schmidt; Armed Forces Office Arnstadt: Capt. Seufferth; land protection bath. 622 Arnstadt: Capt. Man; Flak Regiment 72 (E) Seebergen; ear call. Lt. Summer; Hospital Arnstadt: Capt. Jelden; marine obligation -Amt Arnstadt: Obzm. Werner; Lufi mountain bath. III Schnepfental [responsible] f. Wechmar: Captain Nissle; Higher message leadership Herrenhof. ltn. Streven; Security group Sophienhof [Sophienbrunn?, note d. author]; ltn. Hajek; Mil. Geo Schloss Friedensstein: Hptm. Hartnack. [...]

The result was a code list, which by Speer and Kammler had been worked out:

Goshawk - Arnstadt, buzzard - Gehlberg, sparrowhawk - Bittstädtl Holzhausen, falcon - Lehesten, eagle - Wechmar, young bird - Oberhof, nest - Burg, heron - Ilmenau, and magpie - Schwarzburg. Ohrdruf was old bird or fresh meat.

There are different codes for these names in the SS pay like Wechmar [...] degrees and Arnstadt [...] degrees.

Now it is well known that there were many plants, not only [that] of the test aircraft in Gotha [...]. So twelve kilometers from Ohrdruf was the new V-weapon factory A-9/A-10 near Gossel with the large labor camps in Crawinkel, the V-1/V-3 north of Gossel.* Suppliers were in Ohrdruf Wölfis, Wechmar, Schwabhausen

* This imprecisely worded sentence gives the impression that these were two different sites with different production profiles, working first on the "America Rocket" A-9/A-10 and then on the VI/V-3. This statement is unique in this form, but it is very likely that it only refers to one object, because other statements and also the logs of the American military secret service G-2 only ever mention a large secret weapons factory in which V- 1 was built and experiments were carried out on the V 3. According to all that is known, the A-9/A-10 ranked under the generic term V-3. The witness shared the (continued on p. 50)

and Arnstadt (MDW with test canal), then also the carbon dioxide factory in Gräfenroda of the company AGEFCO from Berlin, the Vorwerk Mitte in the Lehesten slate pit, the engine factory in Sonneberg, Stahlbau Fiedler in Arnstadt, plus the laboratories in Stadtilm by Dr. Gerlach and Dr. Diebner, in Gehlberg by Dr. Schnittger* and in Wechmar Sophienhof [here the location Sophienbrunn is probably meant, ed. author] by Dr. Hertz (Vierau [Viau, note d. author]).

As a driver, I often had to drive to these laboratories in the car of Hauptsturmführer Oldeboershuis, as well as to the facilities of special SS bases. There were the so-called 6th SS Divisions. in the castle in Günthersleben and in Dornheim; At Pastor Anton's was the special SS base, which was constantly manned by two SS men from Dr. Kammler, as well as the locations of the Leibstandarte >Adolf Hitler< in Holzhausen, the Divis. "The Reich" at Eulenberg in Arnstadt, the SS men in the "Erfurter Hof" and in the palace in Arnstadt, in the gray castle in Ohrdruf and in the Gotterschloss Molsdorf as well as in Steigerbunker VI.

Location of the V-Waffen factory (V-1/V-3) near Gossel, who speak at a point north (here generally 1.6 to 3.2 kilometers are given; directly involved - see later in the book). of three kilometers) from Gossel. If you enter this information on a topographical map, you get to the area that is known as the Great Tambuch.

A map sent to us years ago by a witness shows a large circle in this area, which with a probability bordering on certainty reflects the location of the V-weapons factory. Kammler's secret rocket factory may have been identified!

* A US document - the G-2 Journal of the US 102nd Infantry Division, see page 52 - reports that a "laboratory" has been identified at Gehlberg. The laboratory staff, headed by Dr. Schnittger was immediately "evacuated" to Heidenheim, along with the families and equipment, with this action being taken by a Mr. Wilkins was organized by the technology scouting group CIOS. This indicates that it was a special kind of laboratory of importance to the Allies.

These points were with high officers and SS men from 1.3.

45 constantly occupied.

On March 10, 1945 we had to go with the SS men from SS Dr.

Kammler's Dr. Ohnesorge from the Research Council of the Reichspost and a Dr. von Ar... [it might be about the scientist Manfred von Ardenne, editor's note. Author] from Weimar (Autobahn) to Stadtilm. It was said surreptitiously that the three miracle weapons, the so-called uranium bombs, were in the special vehicles. The escort officer told us that by January 7 he had 45 in the special building B 3 b Wolfleben

[Woffleben, note d. Author] worked on an underground project, but the work would have been relocated to Berlin because of the AWO project, but some of the technicians and prisoners would have gone directly to the AWO area.* In this area was the

* The circle closes! Henry Picker, in his book *Hitler's Tisch Talks at the Führer Headquarters* (Propyläen Taschenbuch bei Ullstein, Berlin 1997), claimed that the war ended for the Allies at five minutes to twelve and that both the A-9 interglobal missile and the "pumpkin-sized" uranium bombs had been thoroughly engineered were about to be ready for action. (In March 1942, Picker had been promoted to the position of lawyer at the Führer's headquarters, a position that also made him a regular dinner guest at Hitler's.) Picker also provides information about who developed the uranium bomb: According to information from Hitler's adjutant Schaub, that would have been Lichterfelder Research Office of the Reichspost brought this weapon to prototype maturity.

The series production of these small atomic bombs was planned "[...] in an underground SS factory in the southern Harz (with a production capacity of 30,000 workers) [...]".

In his book *Secrets in Thuringia's Underground* (H.-Jung-Verlag, Zella-Mehlis), published in 2002, one of the authors (T M.) was already thinking about whether the production possibilities Picker mentioned in an »SS plant in the southern Harz« also existed actually passed. In 1936, the Economic Research Society (Wifo) mbH, based in Berlin, began to drive two tunnels into the Kohnstein in Niedersachswerfen, about 200 meters apart. The plan was to create underground storage rooms for fuel at this point and to sell the broken-out anhydrite to the processing industry. When in 1943 the need for (further p. 52)

52

Fr. . 011425B July 45

C O N F I D E N T I A L To : 021630B July 45

102D INFANTRY DIVISION J077656, Gotha, Germany

G-2 JOURNAL GSGS 4416, Sheet R5, Scale 1/100,000

Time	Serial	Time	Incidents, Messages, Orders, Etc.	Action
In	Out	No.	Dated	
011425B		16		
			Recd fr Hq 102d Div: Bul #9, 29 June 45.	
			Info Ed outline #3, 29 June 45. Corrected.	
			Copy Bul #9, 29 June 45. G-3 PR #208, 292400	
			302400B June 45. Bul #10 30 June 45.	
011435B		17		
			Tp fr Maj Starks unit: Checked with us on	
			loading and movement of documents from	
			SALFELD to LUDWIGSTADT.	
011440B		18		
			Tp to Div Arty: Asked for temperature.	
			Max temp 69°F 301400B; min temp 55°F	
			010230B.	
011500B		19		
			Recd fr GIC: Ept for 1 July 1945.	
011505B		20		
			Tp fr XII Corps: Recd request from Seventh	
			Army as follows: Request fr 12th Army Gp:	
			The following scientific personnel to be	
			evacuated: SCHULTZGER, with wife and four	
			children together with 3 assistants and	
			their families and laboratory equipment.	
			Located in GEHLBERG, J158354, (3d Bn	
			405 Inf). Mr WILKES of GIOS in on his	
			way to 102d Division to coordinate movmt.	405 Inf
			They are to be evacuated to HEIDENHEIM.	
			Corps wants us to call them back on whatever	
			action we take.	
011610B		21		
			Tp to 405 Inf: Gave them info in above	
			entry. M	
011615B		22		
			Tp fr 405 Inf Maj Babun: Requested that	
			if possible we should supply two trucks	
			since he alerted the above group and also:	
			was unable to move Dr. Wils with the group	
			today. He therefore expects to move both:	

The C-2 Journal of the US 102nd Infantry Division reported in July 1945 the evacuation of a "laboratory" in Gehlberg, which was led by Dr. Reaver stood.

As underground relocation became more and more urgent, Wifo's existing underground fuel store was used and more tunnels were dug into the mountain. In the period at the end of 1943/beginning of 1944, further systems were planned and started in addition to the existing systems of the central and northern works. The newly added systems were the B 11 ("Eber" and "Kuckuck I") and B 12 in Kohnstein, B 3 a and B 3 b in the Himmelsberg near Woffleben and the B 17 south of Ellrich. The assignment of all subterranean areas summarized under the term "central building" was carried out by (further p. 53)

best technology in the world at that time. In Stadtilm, the objects were taken to a room in the laboratory, where there were safes in the wall. In the first were the

so-called U-bombs (two larger and one smaller) and in the second technical documents, gold and money.

In the afternoon the little one was sent to Rohrensee

SS Obergruppenfuhrer Hans Kammler, who used a local office of Special Inspection II for this purpose.

In connection with "Mittelbau" and the SS nuclear weapons factory in the southern Harz Mountains mentioned by Picker - according to everything that is known today - only two plants would have come into question for such use: B 3 a and B 3 b. According to the existing plans, these had the appropriate area and all other framework conditions necessary from the point of view of the time. However, according to Xaver Dorsch, a leader of the Organization Todt, B 3a in the Himmelsberg was intended for the production of the »Schmetterling« rocket, so that only B 3b remained. But this plant, although begun, was not completed. Dorsch writes about this in his 1947 report The Transfer of Industrial Installations to Locations which are prepared for the American army

secure from aerial bombing. "Like B 3 a in the Himmelsberg, the B 3 b structure was planned at its north-eastern tip on the outskirts of the village of Niedersachswerfen with a westward extension, with a connection to B 3 a through the northern tunnel. Structure B 3 b should have a floor area of approx. 100,000 m² and one Reichsbahn route from O and one from N. The construction site began in the fall of 1944, but was shut down at the beginning of 1945 in favor of the subway system S III - Ohrdruf.« The statement by OT man Xaver Dorsch is interesting: On the one hand, the Plant B 3 b with an area of 100,000 m² was started, so that there must have originally been a need for it. But then the project was canceled - because of S III! Everything points to the fact that nuclear weapons production was originally to be realized in Annex B 3 b, but was then relocated to S III for certain organizational or safety reasons. It is therefore also probable that experiments or facilities for the new weapon had already been carried out or existed in certain sections of B 3 b or in other nearby known or unknown facilities. This in turn would make it necessary to examine the B 3 b facility near Woffleben and the surrounding area for corresponding traces.

where an experiment was carried out in the evening, but we all had to leave.*
 On March 18th, 1945 I saw Dr. Kammler personally, and we had to bring documents from technicians and scientists from the Skoda works to Wechmar from Rudisleben.

We heard for the first time about two FHQu in the area - one the FHQu at Arnstadt three kilometers in the direction of Bittstädt and the other: one kilometer away from Gossel on the slope of the Bielstein.**

On March 21, 1945 all hell broke loose. On March 23, 1945, Dr. chamberman and Minister Speer the big meeting in the Wechmarer Gasthof. There I also saw for the first time such people as Jodl, Keitel, Goering, Goebbels, Dönitz and Fritsch as well as Frickel, Sauckel, von Ritter, von Witzmann, von [...]. [...] I don't write anything about the events up to March 28, 1945. I would like to say something about some deposits. There were deposits in the castle [...], among others from Gotha Castle, from Weimar and also Berlin, in the [...] documents of the research of the Skoda works and in the [...] documents of the SS and rocket technology, in the [...] Documents

* The testimony indicates the possibility that the "bomb" prototypes in Stadtilm were delivered from the Berlin or Woffleben area (Annex B 3 b). Irrespective of this, the originally planned B-3-b project was relocated to S III - and here there is a remarkable correspondence between the eyewitness testimony and the report of the OT man Xaver Dorsch. If the best technology in the world was in the AWO area, then it seemed logical to Kammler to concentrate the serial production of the weapon right there.

** The term "Bielstein" not only appears again and again in witness statements, but - as will be shown below - also in official documents.
 Until now it was not clear whether the terms »Bielstein« and »Bienstein« are identical. However, the above location is so exact that only the Bienstein (Jonastal) can come into consideration for the location of the FHQu mentioned. Irrespective of this, it was possible to identify one of the civil engineers who were involved in the construction of the "first" FHQu ("guide tunnel") on the "Bielstein" (Bienstein).

from Dr. Kammler via Arnstadt and Rudisleben, in [...] Leadership documents of the SS, in [...] Research reports of the Reichspost and the SS.* At the same time, on March 28, 1945, a six-engined long-distance aircraft with the designation Ju-390** was driven from the autobahn in the direction of Japan to the Luftwaffe with test pilot W Brought away, many boxes were reloaded at the tunnel entrance on the Autobahn in Wechmar. On March 29, 1945, the so-called Stetter Group*** was again consulted at the Wechmar inn, which also departed from the Autobahn with three planes in the direction of Innsbruck. Now I believe I have written you a few points.

I was recently approached by our [...] about my work back then in Gotha, because a friend from the office [...] asked and things are related.

[...], I already sent you a letter on December 13, 2001, but unfortunately received no response. [...]

If you absolutely want to speak to me personally, then please via Mr. [...], since I am also bound by this "goddamn oath".

Best wishes

* For understandable reasons, the locations specifically named in the statement are not reproduced here.

** The Ju-390 was the successor to the Ju-290 and, depending on the version, was intended to be used as a long-distance reconnaissance aircraft or nuclear(!) bomber. According to various sources, the range of the machine, which made its first flight on October 20, 1943, was at least 8,000 kilometers, with a maximum of 9,700 kilometers being mentioned. Rumor has it that there were two machines that could cover a distance of 12,000 kilometers. These disappeared at end of war.

*** Georg Karl Friedrich Stetter (1895-1988). Nuclear physicist, from 1914 to 1922 studied at the University of Vienna, 1922 doctorate, 1928 habilitation. 1934 honorary professor at the University of Vienna. By 1942 he was employing half a dozen physicists and physical chemists to measure cross sections and other parameters of the transuranium elements.

We do not want our readership to be involved at this point

Comments are boring, because the above statement speaks for itself by and large. Some points that seem very important, however, should be deepened.

The contemporary witness named a few companies that were important in connection with the secret Kammler rocket factory and the nuclear physics experiments. Unfortunately, it is sometimes difficult today to want to determine which companies and institutions played a role in this connection - insofar as there are no indications from witnesses or documents. To make matters worse, certain companies that took on subcontracting tasks manufactured completely different (armament) goods to the outside world, but sometimes had special departments that manufactured parts that were extremely important to the war effort in strictest secrecy. During our research, we have seen time and again that companies seem to have "harmless" production profiles, but in the background something very important is going on with regard to the magic bullets.

Regardless of this aggravating circumstance, some things could be reconstructed. The witness named, among other things, the company Agefko — written by him AGEFCO — which was ~~The long time from Beijing to the~~ relocated from Beijing to the production of carbon dioxide. When hearing about it for the first time, one wonders why such a company is being relocated at all, since most people think of carbon dioxide only as the gas that is used as a beverage additive. But that is only half the truth, because Arefko Kohlensäurewerke GmbH (Berlin SW 62) also produced so-called dry ice, i.e. frozen carbon dioxide, which was urgently needed for reactor tests, among other things. Incidentally, the company appears in documents that the district of Arnstadt used as "evidence of outsourcing" in the years

conducted in 1944 and 1945. The company's office was housed at Eckardt & Menz in Gräfenroda, with a usable area of 325 square meters - a bit much for an office! The allocation in question took place on August 17, 1944 for a total of 14 "follower members". In the same overview of the relocation notifications, which was prepared by the responsible district administrator of the Arnstadt district and sent to the state planner in Weimar, there is also a whole series of other important companies and institutions that were relocated from the Reich to Thuringia. Some of them undoubtedly had direct or indirect links with the German nuclear and

to do miracle weapon research or development. Here are a few examples: - President of the research institute of the Reich Post Minister, Berlin Zehlendorf 1, relocated to the rooms of the inn "Schmücke", Gehlberg (purpose: research institute, allocation on February 12, 1945)

- Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2, Werner-Siemens-Strasse 8/12, relocated to the rooms in the »Schobsemühle« inn in Gehren, owner Mrs. Bertha Bauer (purpose office, assignment on April 27, 1945)

- Company Siemens & Halske AG, Berlin, relocated to the former porcelain factory in Groß Breitenbach and to the premises of the "Bayerischer Krug" inn (purpose: production and storage or as a community camp for foreign workers, floor space: 2487 or 195 square meters, allocation on June 10, 1944)

- Plenipotentiary of the Reich Marshal for Nuclear Physics, e.g. Hd. Prof. W. Gerlach, Berlin-Dahlem, Boltzmannstraße 20, relocated to the Stadtilm middle school: three basement rooms, 1st floor: eight rooms, 2nd floor: five rooms, a storage room (purpose: production, usable area: 459 square meters, allocation on 10.10.1945)

The relocation of nuclear physics research, which was headed by Prof. Walther Gerlach, to Stadtilm is well known. But you should also remember them

Information on the »Schobsemühle« in Gehren (they will play a role later). It is also worth noting that companies already based in the Arnstadt district needed additional space, such as the Mako company in Rudisleben, which was allocated usable space in Heyda and Oberpörlitz. This indicates that this company was working on something important.

We'll get to that in the course of our book
Come back.

In the context just shown, the question must be allowed as to why certain nuclear physics research facilities were relocated to Thuringia at all if - according to official historiography - they played no role whatsoever in the Third Reich in terms of their military use. Why was so much effort put into it for nothing?!

According to the official view of things, those responsible knew that nuclear research in Germany was a priority and completely insignificant in terms of its status, so that one could actually get rid of it. Instead, exactly the opposite was done: it was relocated as well!

Oddly enough, nobody seems to have noticed this contradiction so far. In our opinion, there must be more behind the fact that certain companies and institutions were transferred to Thuringia at a not inconsiderable expense, because with these activities one was forced to separate the wheat from the chaff and to separate the important from the unimportant.

Something else is also strange: With regard to the relocation location of the Mittelschule Stadtilm, the purpose of use is "manufacture". How come? It was, after all, a research facility that Prof. Walter Gerlach here

wanted to know housed. Was the statement "manufacture" just a camouflage measure (which made no sense at all given the requesting body!) or was something specific to be produced in small quantities that was already finished in prototype form and was about to be tested? Admittedly, an answer to this question remains speculative, but the note "manufacture" makes perfect sense if one assumes that the German nuclear weapon was ready as a prototype and, after successful tests, one of which took place on March 4, 1945, initially in small series could have been produced.

Let's come to a further point: The contemporary witness also mentioned the location of the underground facility in which work was carried out on the secret weapons A-9/A-10, VI/V-3. The main focus here was on the development and production of those systems with which a special type of warhead was to be transported in the direction of the American east coast in order to destroy New York there, for example. Earlier descriptions repeatedly mentioned that there was a secret rocket factory north of the village of Gossel, which the US combat units moving into the area at the beginning of April 1945 and the CIC military intelligence agency accompanying them learned of. The Americans encountered concentration camp prisoners who told them about this facility and gave their position as one or two miles north of the village.

So far, very little has been known about the events that took place around this rocket factory. It should be all the more interesting that we can refer to two important testimonies in this connection. The first, concerning the factory itself, was taken on March 6, 2002 and came from an immediate stakeholder who worked in a senior position at that factory. Even if not everything

what this statement entails is directly on topic, but we want to reproduce it as completely as possible:

»[...] With all these events from 1938 to 1945 (1954) you have to understand the following: To say something today against the 'friendship' with the USA [...] is a deadly statement in this FRG. So you will never receive any support from Bonn or Berlin in your research. All the results of German science from that time are, as they say, a red rag [...]

I must also tell you clearly: not all Nazis were Nazis (in a negative sense), just as not all SS members were SS members who committed crimes and stood by Hitler. There were many people who were enthusiastic about the idea but had nothing to do with the war and the crimes. As is the case today, they had to say 'yes' to many things in order to carry out their research and their work. I also today condemn the NPD of the FRG.

And please consider what kind of a winner's show was held in Nuremberg, and why were some people immediately singled out by Americans and Russians? Dr Kammler received four funerals and death certificates (he lived very well with the Czechs at the expense of the Americans and Russians) or Minister Speer, who was well accommodated in Spandau but was never allowed to say anything [...]. Or please think about the role played by the large corporations and their bosses, since the Russians had to overflow their plates.

The role of the resistance was and is a role that could not be clarified in many questions. Of course Speer was the man for us at the nobility after the loss of Stauffenberg. Added to this was Dr. Kammler, who was fully on the side of research and the nobility, whereby he could also carry out his own SS research and so had no suspicions from the Führer triggered. He helped researchers make connections to the big ones

to manufacture corporations, and was able to draw researchers from there for his needs, whereby none of the big bosses ever asked Kammler a counter-question.

Now I am one of those people who had an activity in this area. [...] You know the oath of 1945, which is still fully valid today: ... a traitor remains a traitor ...? Although I am of the opinion today [...] that our achievements are achievements of science and not achievements of the Nazis (and their rulers), and why should we remain silent? Unfortunately, many of our people at that time worked for Americans and Russians after 1945 for good money and thus also violated their oath.

Now I can't tell Lhnen anything about A-research in Stadtilm or about the construction of test facilities or the FHQu near Arnstadt. I worked in the rocket weapons sector. First in Peenemünde, then in Nordhausen, until I came to Gossel in 1944. The V-1 and V-2 were developed as tactical weapons and handed over to the military, and now it was about the long-range missile, designated V-3 and A-9/A-10. When it came to the rocket designations, things sometimes got mixed up. Our Dr. Kammler to blame, who thus showed an opinion in the large staff (ignorance of the managers).^{*} Both systems were ready at the drawing board.

The V-3 had nothing to do with the "remote gun" (high-pressure pump). Wernher von Braun had finished the V-3 long-distance rocket for the wind tunnel in Peenemünde, but too many people were in charge in Peenemünde, like Walter Dornberger. Dr. Kammler therefore allowed Herr von Braun to manufacture the V-3 in "Mittelbau-Dora" near Nordhausen and in the test factory

^{*} With this, the witness probably wanted to express that Kammler was using the confusion of designations to show the National Socialist leadership that he alone knew the exact type designations.

Gossel, between Arnstadt and Ohrdruf. This long-range rocket was 26.14 meters long, weighed 102 tons and had a launch thrust of over 200 megaponds. The tests were carried out from the Luisental firing range.* There were four tests, none of which were very successful.

dr However, Kammler had another long-range rocket, which was designated V-101 by Skoda and known to us as the A-9/A-10. At the Skoda plant in Pribans, this long-range rocket was manufactured by dr Büdewald** and Dr. Teichmann, who worked from February 1945 in the Gossel, Mittelbau-Dora, Mitteldeutsches Werk Arnstadt and test facility Polte 2 Rudisleben factories.

This long-range rocket was a solid-fuel rocket 30.26 meters long, 2.82 meters in diameter and weighing 146 tons — as a three-stage rocket. Planned summit height approx. 200 kilometers with a range of at least

1800 kilometers. The rocket had three wings. The starting and launching device was built by the Fiedler factory in Arnstadt under the direction of Ing. Walter Riedel*** at Polte 2, in the direction of Rehestädt.

* The launch site at Luisental has not yet been identified. References to him have already appeared in earlier testimonies from those involved. In addition, on July 22, 1962, the witness Heyder from Bittstädt gave the members of a commission working on the local contemporary history a reference to the firing range near Luisental. There was scaffolding there for launching rockets, which had been erected by the company Gitterbau Gebrüder Fiedler, Arnstadt, and was dismantled by the Russians after the war: "Our friends dismantled the system in Luisental and brought it to Leningrad ... «.

(Statement from the author's archive)

** As recent research has shown, the name »Büdewald« is not entirely correct. The person who was interested was called »Bödewadt«. Oddly enough, this inaccuracy occurs even in the specialist literature, e.g. B. with Fritz Hahn: Weapons and secret weapons of the German army 1933-1945, p. 180/ 182, Bernard & G 3rd edition, special edition in one volume, 1998. Years ago, the Spanish researcher Norbert Lahuerta drew our attention to an important fact concerning the person of Walter Riedel. Mr. Lahuerta found in (further p. 63)

Only one test was made because there was great trouble with the solid. Above all, SS Hauptsturmführer Albert Scholz played a major role in the success of the test. He was on the 16th.

March 1945 successful. Minister Speer, Dr. Kammler and his Skoda friends as well as the scientists

about Dr. Thieves from Stadtilm etc. there. It was a success by Dr. Kammler and his Skoda friends.

Now a little about my direct work, though I will say nothing about my rank and position. Just so much, I had something to say and belonged to a circle around Dr. Kammler and the nobility (resistance), although Wernher Freiherr von Braun was not one of my friends. The VI and V-2 production in "Mittelbau-Dora" is known, but the construction of the factory about three kilometers from Gossel is not known. From January 1944, prisoners had to build tunnels and rooms for the underground production of V-1 weapons. In reality

it was for Dr. Kammler set up his own test workshop for his rockets, with the Skoda works always playing a role.

A prisoner camp with approx. 6000 prisoners was added to this

CIOS Report XXV11-45 (Public Record Office, Kew/London), which deals with, among other things, the underground facilities near Nordhausen, a reference to Riedel as a person: "[...] Mr. Walter Riedel who was working directly under Prof von Braun and in charge of combustion and the design of the weapon as a whole was located by US Ord. in Thuringia and brought to Nordhausen by Maj. Staver US Ord. [...]« Ing. Walter Riedel, as a developer, was an extremely important man in the German rocket program in Peenemünde. According to the CIOS report, he was found by the Allies in a place in Thuringia that was not Nordhausen, because he was taken there after his arrest. Unfortunately, the CIOS document does not name the place where Riedel was originally picked up, but in our opinion it does not take any imagination to draw the appropriate conclusions now. (See also: Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner: Hitler und die »Bombe«, p. 207/208, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2002. The relevant page of the CIOS report is printed on p. 208.)

Crawinkel erected.* This camp has nothing to do with the camps in Ohrdruf, Espenfeld, in Tambuch, in Haidenholz or with the construction of the research facilities, the objects >Burg<, >Jasmin< and >Olga<. The prisoners were not from the Buchenwald concentration camp either, they were selected miners and technicians; about 300 experts were also active. Above all, tests were carried out with rocket designs for the A-9 and a production line was set up which was operational as early as April 3, 1945 and production of the A-9/A-10 could have started immediately.** I can but not assessing the role of the Reichspost with the Research Council and the Stadtilmer with Dr. thieves would have played there. Also, nothing was ever said about the warhead of these solid fuel rockets. There was talk of the so-called sewage treatment plant at Polte 2, which was needed for cooling. From here there was also a test track to the Mitteldeutsche Werk, and from there connections to the FHQu, to the control center at Eulenberg, etc.

* In the archive of the Buchenwald concentration camp there is a compilation of material on the subject: Ohrdruf "Olga" outside detachment - S III, dated September 4, 1974, in which the camp is mentioned, albeit with a lower occupancy rate. The overview reads: "Responsible for the shaft work around Crawinkel: SS Obersturmführer Janusch, SS-Sturmführer Kaiser. In this command worked approx. 2-3000 prisoners.« The elaboration refers to the report by K. Zehnel, Buchenwald-Archiv No. 62-79-3. It remains unclear why "shaft work around Crawinkel" is explicitly mentioned when, according to established opinion, only the construction work in the Jonas Valley, which began in late autumn 1944, was carried out.

** The presence of a production line means that the tests, even if they were not a complete success, the suitability of the large rocket had shown. As with the V-2, it was probably intended to eliminate occurring errors during ongoing production. A production line requires the existence of a precise flow chart for the production, e.g. B. Material and (optimized) work processes. It is impossible to realize such logistics within a few days or weeks, so there must have been corresponding work to realize the project beforehand.



The Muna Rudisleben (Polte 2), photographed by the Allied reconnaissance on March 16, 1945. The rocket launch facility (1) and the »sewage treatment plant« built in 1937 (2) are clearly visible. (Source aerial image: image archive AIR PHOTO DATABASE, engineering office HG Carls, Würzburg)

But back to our factory. This factory was so perfectly camouflaged that identification was impossible, even though there was heavy traffic here every day. The excavation from the tunnel and hall construction was brought to light in a completely different place with winding towers. The material was brought into the halls via entrances from the clipper or via other connections, etc. This is not the case for researchers and experts today either

possible to see the location of the factory as camouflage is still a feat today.

Our factory was about three kilometers away from Gossel, so we were able to work undisturbed, since everyone saw something from the outside in the form of the construction project in the Jonas Valley and the prisoners and the SS (not Dr. Kammler's SS) were openly working there was.

On April 22, 1945, we were flown to Pilsen with all our documents. But I can say today that the factory was still working after 1945.

There was actually no need to leave the factory, since a water treatment plant was working for drinking water and long-term food was stored for a few years.

I can't tell what the materials looked like.

In any case, I can say today that the Americans never saw or found the factory, I cannot say whether the Russians were there, just as I cannot say what happened to the prisoners and the experts. In any case, we had the most modern machines and technical equipment in the factory

facilities. I don't think Hitler ever knew anything about this factory.

But I can attest that Dr. Kammler informed Minister Speer about the factory when it came to special materials.

Once it was also about special catering. The prisoners were not well cared for in the Crawinkel camp, and there were losses. Here, on the orders of Minister Speer, special rations were allocated from the supply base for U-boats in Arnstadt.

The researchers from the Skoda works were always in Arnstadt accommodated in the Hotel Erfurter Hof or in the Deutsches Michel.

Now I have been able to tell you a few things about the factory. Although today I am actually glad that this story came to an end, because the German nobility did not have the strength to build a new National Socialism based on the ideas of Stauffenberg and von Witzleben. Unfortunately, including the German

Research still suffers today and cannot fall back on its great successes. I'm always ready to say that historically our ideas weren't the worst. Bad were Hitler and his SS and the little ones, who suddenly wore a uniform and were the biggest, but had nothing in their heads. [...]"

Let us follow what has just been shown here with the next statement, dated June 18, 2002, which is also directly related to the facility north of Gossel and some additional information regarding the relocation of German rocket technology from Peenemünde to other locations

lets know, which up to now have never been reported in this form and completeness. One can see here that the section of Thuringia that interests us was of considerable importance for the development of rocket technology: "[...] I myself am now almost 90 years old and first worked in the Peenemünde area, then at the Reichspost and then for dr Kammler, also after 1945. I was a technician in development research, I was convinced of the system, but not convinced of the war, acts of war, murder and the military under the Wehrmacht and under Hitler. With others

Words, I was on the side of the resistance (the nobility in connection with Speer and Kammler and their goals) and proud of the successes of German science and their results.

Maybe my thoughts don't go back far enough, but you have to start with one point:

The scientists around Wernher von Braun and Walter Dornberger succeeded in launching the A-4 from the Greifswalder Oie on October 3, 1942. A great achievement of science.

The destruction of the production area in Peenemünde brought about the relocation to the central works in Dora, but also an upturn in production at Gossel and in Wechmar. In Thuringia, thirteen chemical plants had to work to produce liquid oxygen and twelve to produce hydrogen peroxide.

On February 4, 45, the convoy drove from Peenemünde to Rich towards Gossel and to Bleicherode [...]. Nobody knew the Nest Gossel, it wasn't even marked on the normal map.



"Three kilometers north of Gossel...": Is this where Kammler's secret rocket factory is located under the Tambuch in the area of the Ohrdruf military training area? After Information from concentration camp prisoners reflected in US documents of the G-2 Military intelligence found a well-disguised underground factory building V-1s and experimenting on the V-3 a mile or two north of the village of Gossel. Former officials gave the location of the

Facility with »three kilometers away from Gossel«. (Source aerial photo: Photo archive AIR PHOTO DATABASE, engineering office HG Carls, Würzburg)

net. The transport included the entire technical archive, approx.

13.5 tons, as well as W. v. Braun with his employees and approx.

450 engineers. However, the convoy had three destinations: Nordhausen, Bleicherode and Gossel/Wechmar. In Nordhausen met W. v.

brown with dr Kammler, where a big argument broke out between the two. dr Kammler with his SS scientists, the research council of the Reichspost with Manfred von Ardenne and Dr. Thief had with his core researchers

other goals: the construction of a Fourth German Reich with the

lord of the nobility. A second consultation with W v. brown, dr

Kammler - in which Speer also took part from time to time - in Geraberg brought nothing, since Dr. Kammler Herr v. Braun did not give access to the Gossel production facility.

W. v. Braun fled to Oberammergau when he learned that Dr. Kammler was also head of development at the Skoda factory. (W. v. Braun surrendered through the mediation of his brother M. v.

Braun together with his scientists in Garmisch

Partenkirchen to the US armed forces.)* W. v.

Braun betrayed to the Americans the production facilities in Nordhausen and at Gossel as well as the research team around Dr. Kammler and Dr. thief. Of the Americans became colonels

Toftoy and Major R. Staver deployed. But these did not agree with the resistance of the SS and Dr. Kammlers calculated, with Dr.

Kammler in Nordhausen could not save anything. On April 11, 45 the factory was taken, the approx. 4500 prisoners and workers as well as the guards were gone.

The Americans found the V-1 and V-2 assembly lines untouched. From May 22 to June 1, the Americans removed 341 truckloads from Nordhausen. These cargoes went directly to Antwerp, where 16 "Liberty" ships were loaded with the

* This statement in this paragraph differs in parts from the officially known account of Wernher von Braun's last days before his capture by the Americans.

Destination New Orleans and from there to White Sands in New Mexico.

It was different with the archive of the technical documents from Peenemünde. W. v. Braun's people Huzel and Tessmann were hidden in Dörnten (North Harz) and near Holzhausen (Thuringia).

w v However, Braun needed these documents in order to be credible to the Americans. The Americans managed to smuggle the documents from Dornten past the British. Different in Holzhausen. The SS around Dr. Kammler had

Wind received from warehousing. She cleared the 2.5 tons of archive material from the storage tunnels and took them to the so-called [...] SS tunnels (only a few SS members know these tunnels). dr Kammler thus had a secret deposit, but he didn't need it for himself against the Americans or Russians. The documents are still there today. The Americans had other worries after they took possession of two almost finished A-bombs at Crawinkel and Wechmarl-Schwabhausen. The Americans did not get into the production facilities near Gossel, nor did they get into many other facilities. The SS members around Dr. Kammler did a great job and spent the entrances so well that even we no longer recognized them.

W. v. Braun was so upset that he only went to the US with 115 scientists.

Dornberger, especially because Dr. Dornberger on March 14 [?, all other witnesses speak of the 16th, d. Author] was present at the launch of the large rocket near Rudisleben and with the scientists

of the Skoda works spoke. So became Dr. Dornberger delivered to the British, where he was imprisoned for two years and only then received a contract with the Americans.

W. v. Braun was also annoyed that Helmut Gröttrup, in conjunction with Hans Rittermann, had managed the wind tunnels and laboratories at Nordhausen, the test site and the production facility

near Lehesten, the Düma company [Thümag?, editor's note. author] in Wechmar and the starting facility in Ichtershausen/Rudisleben to the Russians. W. v. Braun was upset that Dr. Kammler had his technical documents when he was head of development at the Skoda works [...] and that he had two rocket propellants - nitric acid with vinyl isobutyl ether and nitric acid with diesel oil.

From today's perspective, the actions of Grötrup and Rittermann were correct. They have contributed to the fact that many important objects have never been seen by either the Americans or the Russians. Above all, the high-tech objects of the German scientists could be secured, since the researchers around Dr. Diebner and v. Ardenne not only worked on the A-bombs, but also on the M-bomb*, two of which were in the safe in the Stadtilmer school, but with which no tests had yet been carried out in Thuringia.**

W. v. Braun, himself a nobleman, received Dr. Kammler in connection with Speer did not understand the resistance built up against Hitler and the Nazi military. He was also unable to follow the research work at the Reichspost and in the Skoda works

* The M-Bomb is probably the Molecular Bomb. To the

Problem of the molecular bomb see: Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner: Hitler und die »Bombe«, pp. 156-160, Kopp, 2002. According to the information available so far, this weapon is also an atomic bomb in the broadest sense of the word, since in matter ("super compression bomb"). When they are ignited, they cause damage similar to that of a conventional nuclear weapon, but on a much smaller scale.

** The statement that two M-bombs are said to have been found in the basement of the Stadtilm middle school is unique. As can be seen, there is quite contradictory information within the large number of witness statements, which is probably due to the fact that nobody was exactly informed about all projects. This speaks to the authors' credibility, whereas statements that come from different sources and would all report the same identical details should be more suspicious.

and understand. At that time, a new Germany would have emerged in the Arnstadt-Ohrdruf-Gotha-Weimar area

can what many were willing and the nobility would have had the necessary money. Dr Kammler and Speer had the world power in their hands with the A and M bombs, they were also able to destroy New York or Moscow with the large rocket, but they also had the majority of German scientists on their side, who unfortunately have been deprived of their successes today. [...], 06/17/2002«

The two testimonies may sound unbelievable to many who read them for the first time - at least if you know the supposedly well-worked-up history of German rocket technology and its locations in World War II. But the details contained in the testimonies of contemporary witnesses complete the previously known picture of the events in the area of Thuringia that interests us in a meaningful way. And they explain a historical enigma, namely the question of why SS Obergruppenfuhrer Kammler gave up the "Zement" plant (Ebensee, Austria), which was originally supposed to start the production of the A-9/A-10, and housed another production there instead. He did not do this because the A-9/A-10 was technically not yet ready for production, but because he had a better location for this important weapon system - a factory in Thuringia, which seemed safer to him and in the vicinity of which there were other crucial ones weaponry

developments were underway.

Will Kammler's rocket factory ever be found? And if so, what will you discover in her? The production line of the A 9/A-10? Or just empty tunnels and halls? what do they know

Russians? Were you able to identify the facility? And found something that according to historiography

didn't give? - To date, we cannot give any binding answers to the questions asked. However, we would at least like to point out that a Russian source suggested to us that five "hand-knitted A-9/A-10" had been found and salvaged "in this area of Thuringia". We hope that this information can be corroborated in the future, because if the then Soviet Union found the evidence, then, six decades after the end of the war, one would expect the cards to be finally laid on the table, right? Perhaps one is also afraid of the revelation of what was once found, because it could be that the construction of the actually executed A-9/A-10 prototypes looks confusingly similar to a Russian rocket type developed after the war. And that would not be a page of praise, but rather proof that one could do without German know-how in relation to large rocket technology

would have been lost.

Of course, and this is in the nature of things, many questions remain unanswered with regard to the information provided by the witnesses. What was specifically shot down by Polte 2 near Rudisleben on March 16, 1945 and flown in a northerly direction? An A-9/A-10 according to the classic understanding of a two-stage liquid rocket? Or the V-101 from the Skoda works, which was a solid-fuel rocket with a three-stage design? Or have both been tried? And by the way: how many missile tests have there been in this area anyway? Only one? All the effort for that? Hardly believable. Admittedly, many points remain unsolved, and there are also a number of contradictions that we want to take a closer look at below.

The first thing we were interested in was whether the large rocket could be seen on the aerial photo. This should actually be the case if it was shot down on March 16, 1945, the day on

where the aerial photograph was taken. The witnesses claimed that the refueling of the big rocket took two days, so it should have



been photographed in the upright position. After all

so simply is the matter not.

A magnification of the area of interest

pointed with the pentagon

where is the rocket? The "dot" (1) does not separate an upright

the end. Is it the elongated structure (2), the rocket. Because there was one located on the ground? Or is

it a "point" that you think of as a concrete wall? The rocket photographed above is curious that this structure is approx. 30 meters long, so it could

hold up, but it was the size that the rocket also has. this can also be seen on a later (source image archive) recording that was made on March

25, LUFTBILDDATABANK, engineering office HG 1945. So he was eliminated. Then there was

aerial view:

Carls, Wuerzburg)

but still the elongated, »lying« structure that can be clearly

recognized in the picture. British aerial surveyor Nigel Wylde, who studied the image and prepared an analysis* based on it, believes this is the structure

* The detailed aerial photo analysis of Polte 2 was published in: Friedrich Georg & Thomas Mehner: Atomziel New York - The secret rocket and space projects of the Third Reich, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2004, pp. 233-246. The aerial photo analysis was made by Nigel Wylde, a British air analyzer with decades of experience in this field.

In his analysis he states that a) a missile test facility existed, b)

kills were made (in one case there was a heavy explosion (continued p. 75)

around a concrete wall about 30 meters long. In this respect, however, we remain somewhat skeptical, because the "concrete wall" would then have the length that the witnesses also mention when they speak of the height of the "flying object". Unfortunately, we have no further comparison for the supposed concrete wall that could be a rocket. Another American aerial photograph taken on April 25

Dated March 1945, does not show any structures in this area because it seems overexposed in this section of all places.

Of course, assuming the 100-foot structure was actually a concrete structure, one could also assume other reasons for the missile's non-visibility: it was perhaps lying under the concrete structure (which provided protection), standing camouflaged in one under the launch installation located shaft, or the picture was incorrectly dated by the American authorities, which has already been discussed in professional circles.

But it gets even more confusing. If one assumes that the elongated structure is the rocket lying on the ground, not yet erected, and that the photograph is actually that of March 16, 1945

shows the prevailing conditions, i.e. was not incorrectly dated, how was it then possible to refuel the rocket giant within a few hours? Didn't the witnesses say it would take two days? Did the Germans have a new method that made the refueling process faster? Or was a fuel combination used here that involved refueling while lying down with the subsequent erection of the parts of a concrete shaft scattered 300 meters across the terrain), c) unusual bunker structures existed on the terrain that have no equal in Germany and are therefore special must have served purposes.

ready-to-use system? But then the rocket would have had to be erected with a heavy crane or a special construction, which unfortunately is not mentioned anywhere (which is not to say that it did not exist). Apparently you can't get any further here, or can you?

A solution to the overall problem is by no means easy, especially since one of the contemporary witnesses informed that the rocket fired in Polte 2 on March 16, 1945 was not a classic A-9/A 10, but the Skoda rocket V, which also falls under this generic term -101, which Kammler had developed elsewhere but had tested here. According to one available source*, this rocket project was actually supposed to be 30 meters long. When witnesses speak of the A-9/A-10, they possibly mean the classic two-stage liquid rocket, but possibly also the powder rocket V 101. It remains complicated.

However, insofar as the V-101 was tested in Thuringia, some will now reply that it was not an intercontinental weapon, but only a medium-range weapon which, as far as is known, "only" a distance of could manage 1800 kilometers. It would not have been possible to target the East Coast of the United States. Also the

The witness "only" let it be known that the V-101 had a range of (at least) 1800 kilometers.

But why then do all the other witnesses claim in their statements that the miracle weapon fired was an intercontinental missile that could have reached America?

The problem is that there is no definitive answer in the

* Fritz Hahn: Weapons and Secret Weapons of the German Army 1933-1945, Volume 2, p. 180/182, 3rd edition, special edition in one volume, Bernard & Graefe, Bonn 1998. Hahn gives a range of 1800 for the V-101 kilometers.

Moment cannot be given, after on the one hand an eyewitness testimony has appeared which reveals new facts (which we did not want to conceal!), but on the other hand further facts and information on the subject are only available in a limited number. The fact that something cannot be right with the 1,800-kilometer range of the V-101 is shown by the remark made by the witness who reported on the V-101 and prefixed the above number with the word "at least." It is probable that the rocket was able to cover even greater distances, and this is also confirmed by a witness statement that can be found in the interrogation protocols of the GDR commission that have surfaced and are available. These new protocols are dated July 22, 1962, original

In the following we only want to reproduce excerpts from the particularly interesting testimony in which the witness Alfred Gründler spoke about the launch of the rocket on March 16, 1945

expressed. We also found out where the device flew to: »... 1. On July 1, 1938, production at Siemens & Halske AG Berlin started in Arnstadt.

From September 1, 1938, the Wernerwerk and the Siemens Schuckert factory were housed here at the same time. In this context, the names Kurt Wagner, Karl Dutschmann, Karl Knie, Fritz Kühnlenz, Artur Schambach, Alfred Sträßer, Gerha[r]t Langbein, Wilhelm Seufert, Rudi Finn and Alfred Gründler (my name) must be mentioned. Also the names of Dr. Herbert Bauer, Dr. Willi Praxmarer, Dipl.-Ing. Arno Bauer and Dipl.-Ing. Ernst Pic [Beep; like others, the protocol was written somewhat carelessly, d's note. Author], Ing. Walter Dobring and Ing. Karl Siepmann [must be named]. Some of these are good comrades in the world today

2. Pic [Pieh] and Bauer as well as Walter and Dobring had

a special order. They dealt with the development of homing devices that could be built into aircraft and rockets. The first device weighed around 20 kilograms, then they were only twelve kilograms.

During the first attempts in November 1944 there were a few accidents in Luisental, Neustadt-Glewe, but then they were okay.

In March 1945 (I can no longer say the day) an A 4 and then even an A-9/A-10 were shot down by the Polte in Rudisleben. The big rocket was so good, it landed in northern Norway with a deviation of only six meters. [...]

Read and certified: signed

Gründler, July 22, 1962«*

What the witness Gründler revealed is extremely astonishing: Siemens engineers developed a homing system weighing twelve kilograms that could (also) be built into rockets.

And the A-9/A-10 aka V-101 flying to northern Norway missed its target by a full six meters. Strong stuff, because such accuracy should not be achieved by the Russians and Americans for a long time! If you take the trouble to determine the distance between Rudisleben and

Northern Norway, then you come to a distance of between 2000 and 2200 kilometers, depending on the assumed target position.

Sure, even this distance covered by the rocket would not have been enough for the US east coast. But if we are honest, we have to admit that we know next to nothing about the possibilities of this V-101 solid fuel rocket, because the project documents of this development were made by the Americans - like the author Fritz Hahn in his standard work

about the German secret weapons

* Statement by Alfred Gründler, July 22, 1962, archive d. author

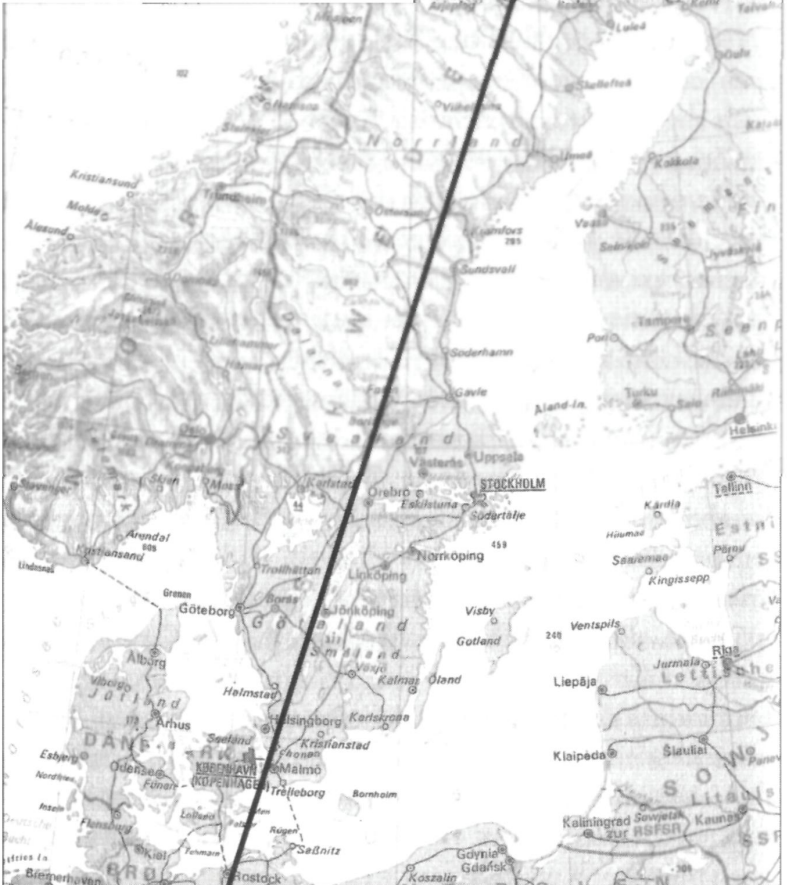
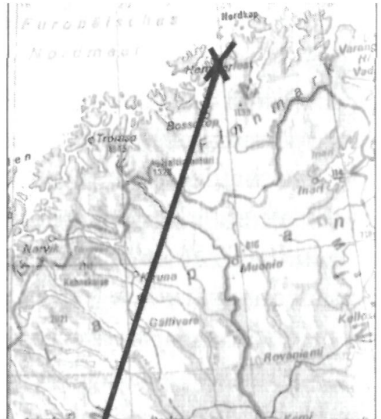
and, as might be expected given their importance, confiscated. Since they have not turned up again to this day, it can be assumed that the V-101 was more than just an intermediate-range missile. It may well be that German scientists and engineers had developed a high-performance solid propellant that would have allowed the V-101 to do this - at least in a three-stage version, because German experts also had explosives technology, which is "related" so to speak, achieved the most astonishing United States achievements - just think of the shaped charge technology.

(Shortly before the end of the work on the manuscript, another witness statement appeared, which is printed further back in the book, which puts the statements of the witness Gründler into perspective: according to this, the V-101 flew into the ice region of the North Pole, so that it can be assumed (It must be taken into account that the 1800 km range is only to be understood as a minimum figure. So the V-101 may have been the alternative variant to the two-stage liquid A-9/A-10 to reach the US east coast cities.)

Irrespective of our considerations reproduced here, about a year ago we received the information from an expert source, who can definitely be described as "prominent" but who does not (yet) want to be named in this context, that Germany at the end of the war actually had a had a three-stage powder rocket ready to reach the United States. The projectile was lower in cost than the V-2 and, if used, would have been very effective. So far we have not been able to find out whether this is the V-101 or another unknown

construction acted. So something is in the »bush«, as the vernacular likes to say, and you can look to further insights and information

Depiction the hypothetical Flight route in Rudisleben in March 1945 launched V-101, under the term ranked A-9/A-10 (Reconstruction attempt after the testimony of the witness Alfred Gründler). A newly emerged witness statement even claims that the V-101 in the North pole ice zone shot would.



information that the unnamed person may one day publish himself. Of course, for understandable reasons, we hope that this will be the case as soon as possible!

Despite certain ambiguities, it is now certain: there was a rocket launch facility north of Arnstadt that would have fallen into oblivion if a few logs from the 1960s had not appeared a few years ago, in which strange processes were described. The fact that the allegations we made years ago in relation to the Polte 2 site are essentially correct is not only proven by the above-mentioned aerial photo analysis, but also, interestingly, by a document that dates from the post-war period and which we would like to reproduce below. It is a document that describes the dismantling work on the Polte 2 factory near Rudisleben. Although it bears no date, it can be estimated that it must have been from 1945 or 1946, when the Russians began to "exploit" the site and the facilities on it, removing them and everything that was not riveted and riveted was nailed down, sent on transports to the east. Here is the full text:

»The company Polte Werk Arnstadt, Ichtershäuser Straße (Rudisleben plant), is entered in the commercial register A, no. 1129. The authorized officers Wilhelm Müller, Dr. Hans Berger, Georg Vogt, Rudolf Weber, Richard Mennecke, Dr. Ing. Sebastian Hammerlich, Hans Ploch, Wilhelm Holtermann, Wilhelm Köhn, Kurt Walz, Paul Hentz have been deleted.

The Polte Meta plant Arnstadt oH is also in the Handelsregister and entered in the land register, volume 75, page 2968.

Shareholder Katharina, Freifrau von Gillern, Freiherr von Gillern, Martin Nathusius, Hans Nathusius - all Magdeburg.

The owner is the Reich Treasury Marine.

Polte Laborierstelle, Rudisleben, is in the land register, volume 15, sheet 501 entered. The shareholders are blacked out from August 1945.

In agreement with and in agreement with Lieutenant Colonel Martemjanov, the military commander of the city and district of Arnstadt, and the officer responsible for dismantling, Lieutenant Colonel Brodnew (commander of M/Unit 75213), the auxiliary commander for military issues, Guard Lieutenant Jacobson, deployed. The administrator Wilhelm Liebknecht was assigned to him by the German side.

The transport is carried out by Russian motor vehicles, which are always accompanied by M/unit 75213. Special rocket technology parts are transported from Rudisleben train station or after loading onto wagons at the works. The devices must be covered in such a way that it is not possible to see what is on them.

The destination is Weimar with the onward journey to Frankfurt/Oder.

It is not yet possible to say whether all the buildings will be demolished. However, all buildings of the laboratory and the cancel rocketry. The basements are to be filled or the entrances are not to be marked. The large tank is to be secured, but the fuel e.g. Currently not to be used (composition is unknown, it is not a fuel for vehicles).

use of labour. The Ar

workers will continue to be employed. Passes are issued only by the commander, Lieutenant Colonel Brodnev, and bear his signature. The workers wear blue suits with a red armband on the right arm with the inscription

lettering M/E 213 or M/E 215. The armband must be handed in at the checkpoints. To set up the facilities and technology, talks are to be held with long-serving workers, technicians and engineers for the purpose of relocating to the Soviet Union. (Pressure can also be put on former NSDAP members, two or three days in Buchenwald.) The deportation takes place via Weimar, personal belongings of up to 6 hundredweight can be taken along.

You will receive a Red Army passport in Weimar.

The entire process is subject to Major General Kolesnitschenko in Weimar. A courier is to give him a daily report on the status of the removal of the laboratory and the rocket technology.

signed Military Commander Nudelmann [and] Captain Kleinermann.«*

What more do you want? The document states very clearly that there was a rocket launch facility in Polte 2, the essential parts of which were dismantled and taken away by the Russians as booty. However, it must be added that the US

troops had taken some with them, but of course did not transfer the entire infrastructure to the United States. In any case, aerial photographs showing the Polte 2 site on July 19, 1945 no longer show the pentagonal (protective) construction around the launch site or the extensive burn mark - both of these telltale clues have disappeared. It is difficult to assess whether these conspicuous elements were removed by the Americans or whether this was still done under German responsibility. One dated March 25th

* "Report on the dismantling of the former Poltewerk", undated, Thür.
Hauptstaatsarchiv Weimar (archive of the author).

In any case, the aerial photo dating from 1945 still shows both abnormalities, but also some other changes in the terrain.

The aerial photo from July 19, 1945, which is printed below, only shows some concrete remains at the position we are interested in, one of which may be a shaft. You should remember the position exactly, because it should play a role in a moment.



Aerial photo of the US air reconnaissance from July 19, 1945, which shows only the remains of a concrete structure (shaft?) at the position where the pentagonal construction with the rocket launcher was once located. (Source aerial photo: photo archive AIR PHOTO DATABASE, engineering office HG Carls, Würzburg)

The Russians finally demolished the superficial buildings in Polte 2 after the war - a mistake, as it turned out later. A few years later, the area became the location for a separate garrison.

It is strange that this location was chosen at all, since the large military training area at Ohrdruf was in the immediate vicinity, which was also used by Russian troops.

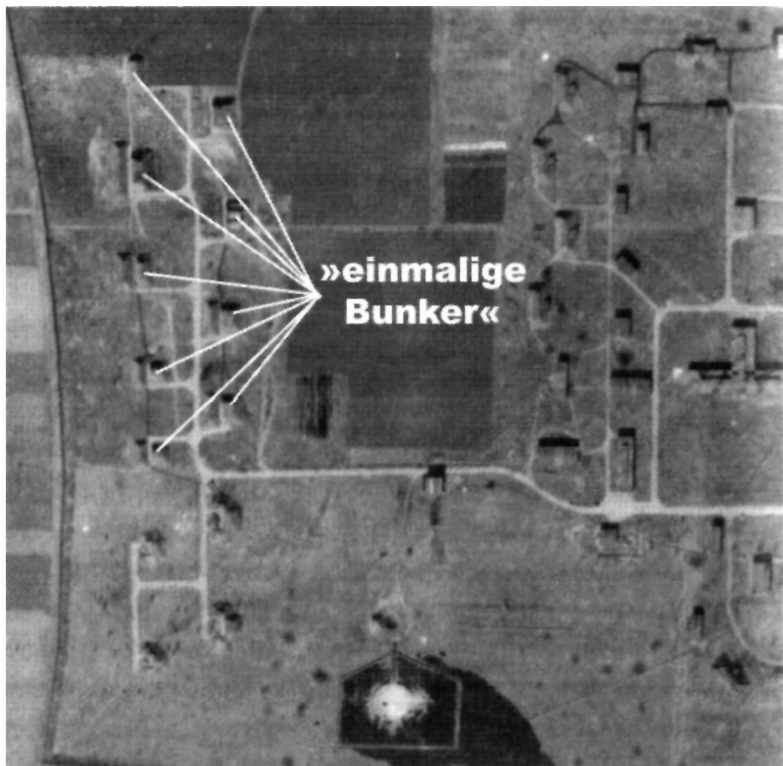
units was occupied. Why this double occupancy? We may speculate: Possibly the Russians realized after some time that there were interesting facilities underground in the former polte 2 area that seemed useful for their goals in the medium term. What was easier than incorporating the terrain into your own sphere of influence?

To show why the Russians could use the Polte 2, we quote briefly from the aforementioned analysis by British aerial photograph interpreter Nigel Wylde: »[...] North of the four standard bunkers are nine unusual bunkers. Each of these bunkers shows a sloping section of road that ends underground in the bunker.

Rating: I have not come across bunkers of this type anywhere in Germany. In British military data analysis circles, the complex of these bunkers would be described as a special ammunition dump. This classification would normally apply to nuclear weapons, but the lack of guards and protective structures, as well as the proximity of the bunkers to the site boundary, argue against this complex being built to house such weapons. Rather, I mean that the bunkers would serve to hold the crated main groups of rockets as they arrive from the manufacturing plants and before they are assembled elsewhere at the facility. If the intention was to load missiles with nuclear warheads, I have not been able to identify a specific location in the facility where this would be done. This does not rule out the possibility that they could be stored underground in one of the facility's buildings, or that they were transported here from another facility.

I think the latter is the most likely, as it corresponds to how NATO and the Soviets handled their fixed missile installations during the Cold War [...]. «*

Nigel Wylde makes a remarkable statement regarding the unusual bunker systems on the western edge of Polte 2 seen in the aerial photo reproduced below, suggesting they may (possibly) be nuclear weapons storage bunkers act! And if that was not the case, parts of rockets could have been accommodated here.



Western part of Polte 2 on March 16, 1945 with the »unique bunkers«.

(Source aerial photo: image archive AIR PHOTO DATABASE, engineering office HC Carls, Würzburg)

* Friedrich Georg & Thomas Mehner: New York nuclear target - The secret rocket and space projects of the Third Reich, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2004, p. 241.

These findings are relevant inasmuch as the Soviet forces did in fact have missiles stationed in their garrison, which disappeared underground. Many witnesses observed transports to the Russian location during the GDR era. The interest of the Russians in this place was

that is, anything but coincidental, as they were able to use the existing infrastructure from the time of the Third Reich.

But it could get really interesting if you know that not only Soviet missiles were stationed here for decades, but also the corresponding nuclear warheads were stored. The latter could certainly have happened on the grounds of the Ohrdruf military training area, but then these nuclear warheads would first have to be transported in an emergency, which can be ruled out for military reasons alone because of the rapid reaction.

The fact that Soviet nuclear weapons were stored near Arnstadt was always blamed in the past

Hand rumored, but now revealed in the book *Secret Bunker Buildings of the GDR*:

»The Group of Soviet Armed Forces in Germany (GSSD), also known as the Western Group of Troops (WGT) from June 1989, took over the barracks, airfields, shooting ranges and training areas, depots and bunkers of the former German Wehrmacht after 1945.«* » The nuclear weapons were stored in 31 very well-guarded nuclear weapons

depots, mostly in the deployment rooms of the missile brigades (with 252 mobile launch pads) and at several airfields.«**

* Stefan Best: *Secret bunkers of the GDR*, Motorbuchverlag, Stuttgart, 2003, p. 179.

** Ibid., p. 180.

"The five armies had a total of ten missile brigades with nuclear weapons depots at Born, Altengrabow, Kochstedt, Würzen, Arnstadt, [...] and Fürstenwalde."*

Based on this account, we naturally wanted to know whether there was more precise information about the Russian nuclear weapons depot in the Arnstadt area. It was already clear from the book that the leadership of the WGT had taken all the files to Moscow in 1994, which it has still not been possible to view for reasons of secrecy.

So, to find out more, one of the authors of this book (TM) spoke to Mr. Stefan Best, but got no news on the matter. From the available documents, according to author Best, it only emerges that the Russians had a nuclear weapons depot near Arnstadt...

Undoubtedly, the former Polte 2 site would have been ideally suited for this purpose, especially since the underground structures there were known to only a few people during the war and a certain degree of secrecy was thus ensured.

In the meantime, with the active support of some fellow researchers, it has been possible to obtain the Russian inventory plan**, which shows a total of 34 underground facilities for the Rudisleben garrison area. However, the list only differentiates between "repository, storage - underground" and "bunker - underground", so that the

exact purpose of the individual underground systems remains unclear. At least it can be stated that some of the "unique bunkers" shown in the aerial photo on page 86

* Stefan Best: Secret Bunkers of the GDR, Motorbuchverlag, Stuttgart, 2003, p. 194.

** List of buildings and facilities, B/G No. 1, Arnstadt garrison. oJ

also appear in the inventory map of the Russians, but unfortunately there is no 100% equality.

Even less agreement exists with regard to a plan* drawn up by a German engineering firm in 1993. Some of the underground facilities shown on the Russian inventory plan do not appear here at all - as if they had disappeared overnight. Or did the Russians

just »forgot« important things?

Consequently, it should come as no surprise to anyone if there are still certain installations in the subsoil of the former Polte 2 site or in its vicinity that no one knows today. It's not even certain that the Russians found all the underground installations in this area.

However, the following is remarkable: On the as-built plan of the Rudisleben garrison drawn up by the German engineering office, a large depression appears in the very area where the pentagonal construction once stood. Some eyewitnesses who took a look at this depression after the Soviet troops withdrew in the 1990s told us that there was a lot of rubbish in this depression. Did the Russians discover the shaft we suspected there and use it in the course of the

Years after the surface concrete had been removed, crammed with whatever no longer seemed useful?

Another circumstance also makes you sit up and take notice: On the On the same plan is a structure designated "71A" referred to as "underground tanks (still in service)". So, of all places, where the ramp was once located, there are underground tanks! Very interesting.

It is highly probable that these systems should still be in the ground today, and should the whole thing ever be uncovered

* Garrison Rudisleben stock, M 1:2000, Dr. H.-D. Blanek & C. Busse (town planners/architects/engineers), Haarhausen 1993.

Э К С П Л И К А Ц И Я
зданий и сооружений в/г Б I гарнизона Арнштадт

№ по ПП	Наименование зданий и сооружений	Год постр.	Этаж-ность	Матер. стен	Площадь м ²	Объем м ³	Примечания
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Жилой дом		I	блочн.	2449	10560	
2	Склад		I	кирп	139	725	
3	Склад		I	кирп	67	343	
4	Теплица		I				
5	Подземные сооружения		подз.	бетон			
6	Подземные сооружения		подз.	бетон			
7	Книжный магазин		I				
8	Жилой дом						
9	Санчасть, казарма, штаб		I	кирп	834	2561	
10	Штаб		2	кирп	335	4133	
11	Т П		I	кирп	25	100	
12	Карпом		I	дөр.	44	172	
13	Часовая ИСМ		I	кирп			
13a	Резервуары ИСМ		подз.	мет.			
14	Пожарный водоем		-	бетон			
15	Библиотека		I	кирп	373	2054	
16	Склад ИСМ (резервуары)		I	мет.			
17	П Т О Р		I	кирп			
18	Библиотека		I	кирп	147	780	
19	Казарма		I	кирп	649	2560	
20	Солдатская столовая		2	кирп	1046	4619	
21	Офицерская столовая		I	кирп	253	2406	
22	Т П		I	кирп	25	100	
23	Общедоступная почта		2	кирп	754	2852	
24	Склад		I	дөр.	90	290	
25	Свином		I	кирп			
25a	Подсобное помещение, д/свиноводства		I	кирп			
26	Штаб		I	кирп	410	2509	
27	Жилой дом		2	кирп	394	2021	
28	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
29	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
30	Тир			бетон			
31	Жилой дом		I	кирп	183	1512	
32	Жилой дом		I	кирп	194	1001	
33	Жилой дом		I	кирп	194	1001	
34	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
35	Бассейн		-	д/б			
36	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
37	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
38	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
39	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
40	Бункер		подз.	бетон			
41	Казарма		I	кирп	806	5792	
42	Хранилище (заглубл.)		подз.	кирп			
43	Хранилище (заглубл.)		подз.	кирп			

First page of the Russian overview of the objects above and below ground in the Rudisleben garrison (ex Polte 2) (author's archive).

it would be interesting to know from which production these containers come. Want to bet that the manufacturers were German companies of the 1940s?

In view of the fact that there could still be certain contaminated sites in the ground, we were amazed to hear that a so-called "Erfurter Kreuz-Süd" development plan exists, which also includes the site of the former Rudisleben garrison (ex Polte 2).^{*} How was to be read that further industrial settlements are to be built there, which, so to speak, represent an extension of what has already developed in this area in recent years.

If you use the site for such construction work only the question remains as to whether corresponding soundings have also been carried out in the depths of the area. Do you really know what was "deposited" there by the German and Russian side? Or is it - as is generally the case today - once again just about a quick euro?

The fact is that there are a number of rumors about the area, which speak of underground connections in the direction of the military training area as well as one that runs in the direction of Arnstadt. An incident occurred shortly before the Russians cleared the area. A few people from Arnstadt, we were told, got through an underground tunnel from the area around the Arnstadt train station to the Rudisleben building and came out of there in the storeroom for the officers' supplies, got a few supplies and then marched back unnoticed. the

The Russians then walled up this tunnel.

There are probably also "rumours" that were transmitted to us some time ago, according to which there had been certain exploratory measures in the area of the former Polte 2 in the last few months.

^{*} Article "Large areas for hoped-for investors", in: Thüringer Allgemeine dated September 4, 2003.

took. Oddly enough, none of the companies commissioned came from Thuringia, and probably not even from Germany. So it looks like there are plans to give the site a "definitive" use after all, which is primarily such that access to everything below it is automatically denied. We have already been informed of what use is planned there in the future, but we want to obtain more detailed information on the research path - in order not to cause any unnecessary uncertainty and excitement here.

Based on the testimonies collected to date, it is clear that the underground of Polte 2 does not stand alone, but also has various connections: on the one hand directly to the military training area in Ohrdruf, on the other hand to the (Arnstadt) Eulenberg area.

We are of the opinion that it is not enough to place industrial buildings on areas that were once used for military purposes. Before that, please clarify what is underground to complete the story and then let the public know about it as well.

Irrespective of this, at some point in the future - and here we are speaking quite generally of facilities in Thuringia's underground, which are said to be non-existent - tangible evidence of an "archaeological nature" will be provided. It should only be a matter of time, money and permits before targeted, extensive investigations using high-performance soil exploration technology begin. The first positive results have already been achieved, as can now be heard thanks to the outspokenness of certain contemporaries, to whom confidentiality was also recommended by others. But the identification of underground assets is an issue that should not be discussed until the first hard-and-fast results are available. The search for

These subterranean installations are all the more worthwhile as various locations are now also known based on witness statements (but not only based on these), so one does not have to blindly subject a huge area to an investigation.

If others and we provide specific references to these sites do not publish, there are certain reasons for this - as our readership can certainly imagine. First, we are not ready to provide ongoing ammunition for those who know better at first but then act as free riders; secondly, we see no reason at the moment to report on things that should be clarified in peace and quiet and through official channels. It's counterproductive to reveal a location when there are whole tribes of people there...

Back to the testimonies. In order to better understand what follows, it must be noted that one of the authors occasionally lectures on the subject. During one such lecture event in Wechmar in December 2001, there were even high-ranking visitors: a few gentlemen who had come from far away to find out what was new had to be greeted by a representative from the nearby military base at a place near the autobahn picked up and driven to the venue. After the lecture, the whole thing had to be done again, logically in the reverse order, so that the driver concerned had finished work, which he must not have been particularly happy about.

The event went normally, a long discussion ensued afterwards, and the speaker had the impression that there was someone who had wanted to speak to him, but then held back due to the presence of strangers. The person in question obviously knew their »Pappenheimer«

and therefore omitted further. However, it didn't take long before a reaction followed, which was kindly sent to us immediately. She documents that it is among the Those present or in Wechmar or in the vicinity of the community but there must be a number of people who know at least some of the events at the end of the war but have so far chosen to keep their mouths shut. At least one of these people could no longer contain himself and wrote the following lines, which the recipient made available to us in February 2002: »[...].

The lecture by Mr. Thomas Mehner in the Landhaus was very good, unfortunately too few were there, but some are still very afraid to say something, including me!!!

Now my remarks: The noble gentlemen were in Wechmar, also Eva Braun, and a lot has happened in the Löwen, and you can imagine a lot about the Sophienbrunnen.

Actually, the name Wendling [Wendlinger?] should still mean something to you today, since it was often in your [...]. He was a friend, and there was always a Ludwig (Gout) with him.

This turn was a member of the Wehrmacht with the rank of captain and had a special order from Lieutenant Colonel Strevens [does Colonel Streve mean here?] in conjunction with Colonel von Reckow, the Wehrmacht station senior. There they were

[...], these too had a special order, and they were all often in the Niedermühle, you know the daughter, that was a fleet with the BDM. Well, we were all at something, like I was at the HJ. So I often helped the three of them when they had to take things to the cellar of the Löwen. Among them were documents from Stadtilm by some doctors, Reich documents for Arnstadt, which at that time - I think it was the mayor Elbeweg [meaning Elbracht, editor's note. author], anyway

a doctor from Arnstadt - brought to Wechmar. There were too some boxes with "top secret" written on them. I can't say where the things were stored in the Löwen.

In March 1945, some consultations took place in the Löwen, where big shots from Berlin were there; that's how I saw Fritzsche, Speer, Goering and SS General Kammler - he was the only one who always wore a uniform. The "Lion" was always guarded by Wendling and by SS Standard Leader Ludwig Gout. It was this taste that threw our mayor Körbs off course when we had to finish off some planes on the Rhönberg, I think it must have been March 27 or 28, 1945 (prisoners had to paint the planes black).), and in the evening some foreigners flew off the highway. I still have the gold coin of one Japanese man that he gave us. That was the first time we saw prisoners who had been shot, they were the ones the airmen had painted.

SS-Standartenführer Gout had to secure the place with a few soldiers and the SS because Eva Braun had to sleep in the Löwen because there had been an air-raid alarm, which had only been given so that the foreigners could fly off. Actually, the three cars were supposed to drive into Gotha, but because of the alarm it was no longer possible. The next morning the cars were taken to the highway. Because of the situation, some big shots only had to hold their deliberations in the Löwen afterward. So much for the situation in 1945, and now for 1992.

As already mentioned, this Wendling was always with this other friend in your [...] home. In 1992 this SS flavor was with me [...] with me and asked about a few things and about the 'lion', which I couldn't answer. I sent them to church where they were too. In the afternoon some boxes were loaded into an Opel van. [...], you were there [...], but you must have noticed something.

I would also like to say something about Körbs. Like all of us, he was convinced of the idea and the cause, but he was also someone who knew where injustice began - I experienced this on the Rhönberg when we and he saw the prisoners who had been shot, with whom we some had worked well together hours earlier. He just said to us, that shouldn't happen, they're just people like us. Incidentally, SS Standartenführer Gout treated Körbs as if he were just a member of the Hitler Youth. It was different with Wendling, he always wore the uniform, didn't always agree with the SS man, and, as I saw, when we were washing the car, I think Speer's, there was a lot of excitement.

This gout must have had a high command, and he was based at Crawinkel. Körbs said that, as far as I can remember, this man was in charge of about 50 SS men, 200 specially trained soldiers and about 1,500 prisoners who were in a special camp near Crawinkel. He and his men were always very quick to Wechmar — Wendling and his non-commissioned officers only had two military buckets — he and his men had vehicles with the three-pointed star. Sometimes they drove straight the tunnel in the mountain behind the autobahn after an assignment in Wechmar or in the moated castle in Günthersleben. By the way, Viau blew up the tunnel entrance with some people and not the SS or the Americans.

There are even more people in town who know something or can say something, but you know the people of Wechmar: head in the sand or: >I wasn't even in the village and >I wasn't in the Hitler Youth either, only with them, I had to be there. < Here in town there are still a few things that will open your eyes. As Mr. Mehner said, history was written here. I just have to admire the people who are going public with these things today. So the presentation [...] from us in Günthersleben was very good, although he only addressed a few things and

clearly said there is still more evidence missing, but he was not at all off the truth with his presentation. Actually, Mr. Mehner's preliminary question was an addition, he clearly focused on a few facts, although I believe that neither gentleman has heard of SS Standartenfuhrer Gout, nor have they both mentioned the name [...] are.

But why did he [...] have to write everything down and ask questions about Mr. Mehner personally, he had already answered these questions and [...] could have asked more precisely, he also knows a few things, perhaps too the Wendling or [...].

Please also give these lines to Mr. Mehner, and [...], no offense, I can't say I was there at the time, I can dig my grave right away.* [...], February 2nd, 2002 «

This request to speak makes it clear that there are still people who speak out on this topic from direct experience could, but feel little desire to do so at the moment. That too should give cause for thought.

* It never ceases to amaze us that eyewitnesses to certain events associated with the Third Reich are not only afraid of divulging explosive details, but are also afraid of being talked about. This is a grotesque situation, because on the one hand fear, whatever the cause, cannot possibly be a basis for a truthful coming to terms with history (not coming to terms with history!), on the other hand there were certain inevitabilities at that time on which such a dictatorship is built. Anyone who is born into such a system and lives through an appropriate upbringing will generally feel that their life is "normal" because they have never known anything else. Whoever of today's proponents of the opinion that one must write history as an indictment, thinks that he never submitted to the Nazi dictatorship, seems to us somewhat unworldly, because man is a) an extremely adaptable social being and b) clings to his Life. Who runs into an open knife with their eyes wide open?

The name of Ludwig Gout was mentioned in the letter — a man we would encounter again and again in later research. Since we were pushing research into other subject areas at the time, we were only able to do marginal investigations into his person, but they were interesting enough in and of themselves. Until his happy death in the 1990s, Gout lived in a town in Thuringia that is known for its castle. In GDR times he was a member of the SED party, after reunification he was only active outside of political institutions.

We have to admit that to this day we have not been able to grasp the true meaning of the person Gout, especially since, as already emphasized, we were primarily concerned with completely different research. Perhaps, however, the publication of this name can be of use to some committed researchers who want to follow this trail. It is, we honestly have to admit, impossible anyway to want to act as a »jack of all trades«. Of course, it would be ideal to spend the time normally spent working to earn a living just for research. Since that is not possible, you have to make a virtue out of necessity and concentrate on the essential elements.

In the following, we would like to present further witness statements that we were able to record as written and oral reports. We will only comment on individual text passages if this appears necessary for a better understanding. What we cannot avoid is that in the course of the following statements there is also a development that is of less interest to us but may be of importance to our readership, since films, books and thousands of articles have already been written on the subject in question are: the Amber Room. Well some will

start to roll our eyes, but we feel that the information in question is not easy on our part

should be suppressed, although admittedly we've kept them under the cover long enough.

We want to get into the discussion about the »Eighth Wonder of the World« don't interfere, far from us. However, we are of the opinion that the Amber Room came to Thuringia at the end of the war and was stored here in an underground complex that was only known to a few people. In this context, one should consider that the facilities in the AWO area, like the entire "Schutz- und Trutzgau Thuringia", were the part of the Reich where the war chaos was still limited almost until 5 minutes to 12. From here, Reich Minister of Armament Speer and SS-Obergruppenführer Kammler wanted to build their Fourth Reich within Operation Avalon, which will be discussed later in this book, and this is where—strangely enough, often overlooked by historiography—objects of importance to Adolf Hitler ended up here like the chariot of Com-piegne. Would you then store a pledge like the Amber Room somewhere in the Reich? Or would you put it in some cave or tunnel, even if it was possible in Thuringia? One must think those responsible at the time completely insane if they had done so, when there existed safe, deep and, above all, unknown subterranean systems which had served quite different purposes for several years but could now house such treasures of art.

One of the authors has already entered his in 2002 published book *Secrets in Thüringens Underground* dealt with this question and showed that the Amber Room transport got to Thuringia as well as a related mystery - namely what

the term »B III«, which is repeatedly associated with the place of relocation, means — could lead to a solution. The son of one of the officers accompanying the transport, a certain Gustav Wyst, had a map case with half-decayed maps in the cellar under a pile of coal after his father's death

Papers found which according to Wyst jr. it could be gathered that the amber room was stored in a bunker or object B III. In the years that followed - the term and the event had long been known - insider circles puzzled over the meaning of B III, which was incorrectly interpreted as S III or (due to a translation error from German into Russian and back again) also as BSCH. However, such contortions of the mind would not have been necessary if one had known that the project S III realized in the greater Jonastal area had an additional designation: B III. This stood for German nuclear research or one of its objects (namely that of Dr. Kurt Diebner), since these locations were designated with a "B" and a Roman numeral. Haigerloch, for example, where Heisenberg carried out his reactor experiments at the end of the war, was designated B VIII.

In conversations with a researcher based in Thuringia, who for years dealt with the transport of art at the end of the war and against whom we are orphans in this respect, he said that he increasingly had the impression that important art transports were also used as a cover for the relocation important technologies served. We can get something out of this idea, especially since we have learned in the meantime that another important transport, which saved German national goods from Russian access almost at the last minute, is said to have been combined with the removal of two German nuclear weapons at the same time -

Incidentally, from a city that Rittermann wrote in his letters

called and in which, according to him, the Americans and Russians were particularly interested.

It is becoming more and more apparent that things happened back then that make every Hollywood thriller or science fiction film like a sleeping pill. In view of the Allied announcement that only an unconditional surrender would be accepted on the part of the fighting German Reich, it was clear to those responsible what remained to be done: what seemed important and valuable - at least the things with the highest priority - had to be done before the Protect enemy access and bring to safety. A well-considered and legitimate action, because it later turned out that Germany's "infrastructure" (and here we are talking about everything that was somehow transportable) - especially in the Soviet occupation zone - was dismantled, hundreds of thousands of patents were simply confiscated and the most capable minds were taken away. Such measures are now often referred to as reparations payments; from the point of view of international law, however, this point of view is quite controversial. In addition, reparations payments are such a thing, because the example of the Versailles Treaty demonstrates that such measures, if they put massive pressure on the loser of a war and he has no say, can actually produce the next major conflict.

But back to the topic. In this respect from the »Protection and Trutzgau« Thuringia should the Fourth Reich emerge, it is only logical to assume that a large part of what was dear to the leading Nazi figures would be relocated here. There is also information on this in the following statements.

Strong stuff will be served, however, we want to briefly indicate that here when we publish excerpts of a request to speak in the next chapter, which clearly

why today no one has an interest in working through the history of the AWO area and the surrounding terrain. As is well known, the GDR responsible

The research project S III, which was running in the 1960s, was literally blocked because the compiled results did not fit into the political concept. The statement that is still to be presented, we want to make it known with the necessary restraint, shows that actually all powers have something to hide in relation to the AWO area. This applies to Russians and Americans as well as the German side, of course, and the East German Ministry for State Security probably had a special department that was well informed, but did not peddle this information. More on that later.

Now let's get into the details and let's go back to the time when Mrs. Maria W. (aka Erika L. [Leimert?]) died. The events that took place after her death were strange enough in relation to what happened at the hospital. But her death triggered other reactions:

»[...], January

22nd, 2002 [...] in our group a few things happened that make these measures necessary.

—Mrs. Erika L., whom you know under the name Maria W., unfortunately passed away on January 10, 2002. Unfortunately there wasn't even a memorial service for her, we don't even know where her final resting place is. The lawyer who looked after her was [...]. We cannot inquire there or ask for information. Her apartment was vacated in the early hours of January 11, 2002.

—Our friend, who established a connection with you [...], can no longer work for us either, he left the FRG in the direction [...], [...]

- We [...] also had to part with two long-time friends, since these friends passed on all our advice to other organizations and received many good Deutschmarks in return. This was a big shock for us, but with the death of Erika we saw the light

- Now about me. [...] was in the Reich Research Council of the Reichspost and in the research group of Dr. K... After a good school education I was assigned to the Ohrdruf/Klipper area at the age of 22, i.e. in 1941. Thanks to my good research results, I was able to earn my doctorate at the age of 24. I was close friends with Hans Rittermann. My direct superiors were Dr. K... and SS Hauptsturmführer Gerrit Oldeboershuis. Strictly speaking, I had the same tasks as Freund Rittermann, except that in addition to research, I was responsible for preparing and organizing various objects.

- As you probably know, it all began on July 13, 1934 with the construction of an underground communications center and supply facility in Ohrdruf.

- You have to make a strong distinction between: a) research and b) industry plus c) the FHQu and d) the resistance. However, all four points do not go under one roof.

- However, the concern to shed light on the matter after more than 55 years is more difficult than it was in 1945 [...]. And there is an oath that is still very valid today, but as former scientists we still want to achieve our success.

I would like to confirm the following points in time and facts to you and your friends: - August 24, 1944: Colonel General Alfred Jodel and

Colonel Gustav Streve had a conversation about the planning and construction of the FHQu and >Amt 800< as the control facility.

- February 26, 1945: Beginning of the relocation of the OKH by Colonel-General Guderian in the "Olga" room. preparations

by the SS to put the FHQu >Burg< into operation at any time.

-1. March 1945: Function plan gets full force. The relocation of goods into the system begins. Imperial files, stocks of the Reichsbank, works of art and provisions are brought to the areas >Olga<, >Jasmin< and >Burg<. dr Diebner receives special rights for the entire area.

—4. March 1945: A test by Dr. Diebner and the SS tube lake. The test concerned the Führer's new miracle weapon the phase of completion. (At the time, I was with Hans and some friends in the tower of the Wachsenburg, where we saw the first explosion at around 9:32 p.m.. It was not until March 5 that I found out that it was an A-bomb test.)

—12. March 1945: Another attempt, also in the vicinity of Rohrensee [...].

—16. March 1945: Here, for the first time, an A-9/A-10 rocket was launched from the Polte 2 Rudisleben rocket launch site. It was a success that is mainly due to SS Hauptsturmführer Albert Scholz. —I will write to you in more detail about Hitler's advice in the FHQu and Speer's role.

Unfortunately, age is noticeable, so two pages are a lot for me personally. But I want to help, although also bound by oath, to bring some things to light.

[...]

In connection [AG]«

The following testimony was sent to us at the end of March 2002. It comes from a man who died in October 1982, so that we can publish his name in this specific case: Paul Hennig. This name may sound familiar to some people, as the man's testimony has already been circulating in certain circles,

although we had not authorized distribution. Others will perhaps remember him vaguely because - according to his own statement - he once lived in Arnstadt. In any case, the existence of a person named Paul Hennig can be proven.* As we have been able to find out in the meantime, Mr. Hennig gave his memories in writing to an acquaintance in Arnstadt, whose identity we know, in order to ensure that what he had experienced should not be completely lost in the darkness of history. The events of that time may have made him think again and again without realizing what had happened. As we mentioned earlier, this document deals with the Amber Room, among other things:

»We were transferred to Weimar in the fall of 1944, why, no one could say at first. Then we went to Arnstadt without further ado, and we were assigned to a special unit. The main task for us was first to carry out the transport of rock from the Tambuch to the highway. Also had to

Rocks are brought from Eulenberg to the Autobahn. A new order meant that we then had to bring machines and finished parts of rockets to the Gossel area. Here we also saw that numerous prisoners were assigned to work, so we drove our trucks into the tunnel and after two hours they were loaded; who carried out the work was unknown to us. Nobody had considered that I actually come from Arnstadt.

At the first construction site there were tunnel entrances near Mühlberg, at Gut Ringhofen and near Wechmar. At Wechmar there was even

* Paul Hennig lived at Bachschleife 21 in Arnstadt. Glaser was given as the job title. This emerges from the register of residents/address book of the city of Arnstadt from 1940, which was published by the company Druck und Verlag Otto Böttner on behalf of the city (archive of the author).

an elevator, where a whole truck was driven down.

Here we also learned that there are two different SS groups.

The normal SS and the SS people under SS General Dr. engineer Kammler, who were completely different SS. I never saw any of these SS men hit the prisoners or...

The prisoners who were taken care of by the SS by Dr. Ing. Kammler worked, was better fed and also had winter clothing, which the prisoners in the Jonas Valley did not have. The prisoners were also treated by the SS doctors in the event of injuries, and some were even taken to the hospital in Bittstädt.

From mid-February, our trucks were then used to transport important goods, our transport trips were carried out by the Wehrmacht (special department 4). There were also orders for object B III from Dr. Thieves and from the Reichspost to the >Castle< object. I have to say that the designation B III was not allowed to be used, we always had to say that it was for the object 'Olga'. We were now subordinated to the Clipper construction staff. According to this assumption, we drove four transports every day from Ohrdruf or Plaue to tunnels 26 to 29 in the Jonas Valley, but via the other construction site. We drove the trucks into the tunnels, there were always twelve trucks, the SS drove them on there, we had to wait in a room at the entrance until the trucks were brought back by the SS drivers. We never found out what was in the boxes. Our trips were also always monitored by the SS, and there were no papers for the trips.

I remember one mission particularly well. We were ordered to Weimar on March 10, 1945 (a total of 26 trucks). There we received orders for loading from a postal security officer named Gustav Wüst [the exact surname is Wyst, ed. author] given. Our truck group was divided, one trip went to Reinhardsbrunn, one to the >Burg< property and one to Elgersburg. The mail protection was under

Control of the SS, but Dr. Ing. Kammler did not have much in mind with these people.

When we were in the station of the "Burg" object and Dr. engineer When Kammler found out about this transport, he was on the move - we were not allowed to continue driving or unloading the truck. >I want to go have nothing to do with the cook of his collection,' [he said,] about 40-50 boxes were left on three trucks. dr Ing. Kammler told us that the designation B III only applies to items from Dr.

Thief, no one else has to wear the designation. The trucks were parked in a hall behind the station. Our drivers also had around 156 boxes in Reinhardsbrunn

problems. In Elgersburg, the crates brought there were already expected by the Japanese. (By the way, the three trucks were driven back to Weimar on April 2, 1945 under the surveillance of postal security, we never saw the driver colleagues again.)

More and more was stored. Then, including two trucks, rocket parts were brought from Gossel to Polte 2 in Ichtershausen/ Rudisleben. We were not allowed to leave Polte 2, our vehicles always had to be refueled. Then we saw the miracle weapon, the rocket was over 30 meters tall. On March 16, 1945, there were big animals in Polte 2. We had no idea what was going on. Our trucks had to be taken to the sewage treatment plant and we had to stay in the trucks, although there was an air raid alarm from 9:00 p.m., at about 11:00 p.m. it got loud, a flash of fire, and then the rocket went up with a fire trail north. It was unique, the big animals celebrated in the Polte, we also received special catering from the Malz factory, the submarine supply point. The next day we were obliged not to see anything. We no longer drove any transport, but were on constant standby in the Polte.

On March 26, 1945 we received the order that we should now see Dr. Subordinate thieves in Stadtilm and immediately to the Red School

had to go to Stadtilm. On March 30, 1945, our trucks loaded, first we had to drive a few crates from Ilmenau and Elgersburg to Stadtilm, then a few glass containers from Gehlberg. The scientists loaded our two trucks themselves, then it went to Coburg on March 31, 1945 and then to Nuremberg on April 2, 1945. Here we had to give our trucks to the scientists, we received a letter from the Swiss Red Cross that we would work for them, and that was the end of the war for us. signed Hennig, Paul«

The legacy of Paul Hennig has it all. Some may dismiss the statements reproduced here as unbelievable, but we consider the whole thing to be quite authentic. It is strange that some of the comments correspond to a testimony that one of us recorded in 2003. In this case, too, the confidentiality of the personal data was agreed, so that only the matter itself should be reported below:

The person in question had one of the authors through a met accidentally. In a confidential conversation that took place some time later, amazing things were revealed that the person in question had never confided in anyone. the

Person, let's call her B., was a teenager when the war in Thuringia ended. A few days before the Americans came to Thuringia, i.e. at the end of March 1945 (sic!), B.'s father received a visit from Martin Bormann, the head of the Reich Chancellery. The father and Bormann had been comrades in World War I and therefore knew each other well. Bormann asked if his family was here, as they were supposed to flee to Switzerland via Thuringia. The father denied that he knew nothing.

Bormann then asked his father to talk to him

four eyes and you went into the "living room", the door of which, however, did not close properly due to a structural error, so that the offspring, who had to do kitchen work in the next room, could overhear everything quite well. Bormann said that he came from the Jonas Valley and that Hitler's command bunker was there

(and possibly other associated underground facilities) were completely finished, including furniture, carpets, etc. Various treasures were also stored there, the name of which B. could no longer remember, but after a while the Amber Room was also called. There was also talk of systems that existed on the other side of the valley and were also stored in them. In the end everything was blasted shut in such a way that it was very difficult to open the whole thing again.

The contact person went on to say that Bormann thought that after this conversation he and his father were perhaps the only ones who knew, because many had been shot: men deployed by the Volkssturm as well as the guards and the drivers and attendants of the transports. This task was taken on by an SS unit commanded by a Standartenfuhrer whose name is known to the person (B. did not mention him in the conversation, but pointed out that the person concerned had died years ago in Thuringia, originally the man was from been Austria). None of those involved knew what it was all about.

After the conversation with Bormann, the father was so impressed that he said he didn't even know whether he could confide in his wife what he had said.

B. reported further details, which are not relevant here. Quite unexpectedly, the conversation then turned to dead prisoners who had been found in 1944 at a certain edge section of the Ohrdruf military training area with their own

and that the "cloud" could be clearly observed at the beginning of March 1945 - it was over the area for a while.

The last hint was for the Gauforum. Bormann, the reporter concludes, told the father that this structure had numerous subterranean floors, and if one tried to get in there without permission, those floors would automatically be flooded. Perhaps that is the reason why the Thuringian authorities have always held back like a damsel when it came to local historians - above all Hans Stadelmann from Weimar -

to approve investigations of the Gauforum and its subsoil...

From the year 2001, some media took up the topic we examined, which led to prompt reactions - named as well as anonymous. Since the reporting also took place beyond the state borders of Thuringia, the descendants of people who were once deployed in the AWO area, for example, also became aware of them, sometimes even contacting old classmates whose addresses had been determined after some back and forth. One of the many letters was kindly given to us by the person addressed, for whom we sincerely thank.

»Dear [...],

you will surely ask, who is Frank [...] ? Then please think of your school days in the [...] school, I was in 1b and I was the one who always brought the small loaves of bread from the baker Bachmann into the school brought. In 1953 we had to leave our beautiful Thuringia because of Schörnig, Schneider and Querengaesser (SED and KWU), since my father returned from Russia and was in Wetzlar near Frankfurt. Schörnig found out about this and my mother was immediately fired from [...]. You won't

know that my father held a high position in the manufacture of rockets in the Central German Works and in Polte 2. Now I have learned your name and address [...] [...].

Well, I don't have my old name anymore, only Frank has remained. A former employee in Arnstadt helped my parents and me a lot. I can't tell if you're familiar with the name Dr. Hans-Klaus Peter, since he worked in Arnstadt under the name of Rittermann. He died [...] heider, but he helped us a lot, otherwise my parents wouldn't have survived. Through him my father then also get a job. [...]

Now to my father and his celestial body. My father was an engineer for "rocket technology" and worked first in Peenemünde, then in the "Dora" object. From there he was ordered to a special development, which was carried out in connection with the Skoda works in Luisental or in Polte 2.

He was subordinate to the research council of the Deutsche Reichspost (von Ardenne, Gerlach, Diehner) and to the SS research group (Kammler, Seufert, Weidemann). The main goal was to set up the large-capacity rocket with which the wonder weapon could be shot to America and Moscow. This V-3 or A-9/A-10 was ready on March 1, 1945. However, at this point Diebner's development in Laboratories S. and G. (place names) as well as a difficulty with the technology system for the gentlemen at that time very, very important. An attempt was made between Holzhausen and Wechmar on March 4, 1945 took place, but my father wasn't there. Later he always told us that the German Reich had had the Wunderwaffe from that day on. He also said that the Americans had learned something about it, and from March 7, 1945, many rumors circulated in Arnstadt that the Americans wanted to raze Arnstadt to the ground. It was the same on March 16: planes were everywhere, but they didn't drop bombs, but with their on-board weapons

shot around in the Jonastal area, in Bittstädt, in Wölfis and Ohrdruf, in Wechmar and Holzhausen. There were air raid alarms on all levels all day long. They were probably looking for the large rocket, which was erected in pole 2 and ready to be launched. Actually, the rocket was supposed to be launched on March 15, but the two technicians from the Skoda works weren't there, who brought an important part with them. But this part was there on March 16, and the world's first ICBM was [...] ignited and took off at 23:04 from the Polte 2

Rudisleben launch site near Arnstadt. It was a success of German science, the technicians around von Ardenne, Gerlach, Diebner from the research council of the German Reichspost and von Kammler, Seufert, Weidemann from the research group of the SS in connection with the research laboratory of the Skoda works. With that, the German Reich had the miracle weapons.* My father also told me about the plan that Kammler carried out with Speer in many secret

meetings in Wechmar, at the Burg, in Dornheim and in Arnstadt, which included establishing a new Fourth German Reich to build with the nobility, and the miracle weapons should serve for negotiations.

He also reported on Speer's and Kammler's appearance at the great leadership conference at the Führer's headquarters near Arnstadt on March 27, 1945, where Hitler wanted to announce the new "Trutzfestung" Thuringia and Speer told Hitler that he would not receive the miracle weapon, that there had already been enough deaths. Actually, that day was the end of the war for my father. My father didn't know what Kammler intended to do with the system, but from t The plant was dismantled in March 1945. When the Americans were in Arnstadt, my father suddenly wore a slightly different uniform; he was no longer close to the Americans differentiate.

* This formulation raises the suspicion that on March 16, 1945 a rocket with a live warhead was launched.

When the Russians arrived, he wore a red armband, etc. The dismantling of the rocket launch site was completed on July 15, 1945. 80 percent of them went to Russia, as did my father. I never found out why he ended up in West Germany and why he worked there for the Americans.

Well, on my next visit to Thuringia I'll knock in [...].

Frank"

While the letter just presented was written in a friendly, unobtrusive style due to the former personal relationship, there were also others that sounded less friendly. After a local editorial team based in Thuringia had turned to the subject of Jonastal and written a corresponding article, there were immediate reactions in which a few things were unmistakably clarified, and one could get the impression that the letter writers expected that one would have to discuss their state of the art, which of course was and is impossible (the following text has been smoothed out in a few places): "Mr.

Thuringia, May 2002 You

are asking about eyewitnesses to the Thuringian area of Arnstadt, Ohrdruf and Jonastal and asking the question: Should Hitler's 'last leader's headquarters' be erected here towards the end of the war? Here I have to ask: Don't you [...] know the story or are you so far off the beaten track that you don't know much of the background? First, you need to name your area a little differently.

It was the Arnstadt-Ohrdruf-Wechmar triangle from 1938 to

1945 - no to 200X. [standing like this in the original, d. Author] There are two large groups here: the scientists, engineers, technicians of the research group of the Deutsche Reichspost with Dr. v. Ardennes, Dr. Diebner, SS General Dr. Kammler and

dr Seuffert* and the group of military and corporations with Colonel General Jodl, Colonel Streve, Commander Bräuning in connection with the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office and head of construction projects, SS Hauptsturmführer Oldeboershuis.

Everyone who has been in office is still bound by an oath today (there are actually two oaths: one by scientists and one by the military), and no one will tell you the whole truth or [...] give you a 100 give % proof; how did a Russian once write, 'the most precious thing a person possesses is liver, why are you asking about contemporary witnesses, whoever loves their life can only write to you without giving their name [...], right don't you know the mighty ones of this earth? They're not based in Berlin, you'll find them in the USA, in Israel and among the nobility ([...]) and [they] don't have a penny left for you to seek clarification of the events in the triangle. They spend the money on security and protection of secrets, which is how many Soviet people got their hands on a few dollars during their time in the region. (Well, maybe there were a few Americans active on the square during the entire Soviet era [...])

In addition to the tall people, there were still taller people, but they were directly Dr. Kammler were subordinate, so: Dr. Rittermann (no one can say under what name this person really lived), Dr. Weidemann, Dr. Freier, SS Standartenführer Mühlheim, from the TENO Fritsch ...

The whole area was and is unique. Of course, at the end of March, the Fuhrer's headquarters was not ready, but it was half-finished, and at the end of March Hitler was at the Fuhrer's headquarters for a consultation on the miracle weapons and the establishment of the Trutzgau Thuringia with the Reich capital Arnstadt, where there was a clash with Speer. In addition to the production facilities

* The name appears in the witnesses in the versions »Seufert« and »Seuffert«.

for aircraft and for beam weapons, the research facilities were of large dimensions. Stadtilm was just a laboratory, the main research was in the area of the military training area. There were the areas >Burg< (FHQu), >Siegfried<, >Jasmin< and >Olga<, the offices (,) [in the original as standing, ed. author] 10 as well as 600 and 800.

However, if you are really serious about conducting research and are not treasure hunters, you will find all the knowledge in the Eulenberg area. There SS General Dr. Kammler, Colonel Streve and Major Budnick set up their headquarters under the military code name Bernstadt. Well, that's all I want to write to you about it.

I experienced how serious the situation in the GDR was from my half-brother, Mr. Wilhelm Kaper. He was interrogated a total of eight times*, with a certain Schörnig** being [...]. He even gave people coupons for shopping at Wismut for good statements. My half-brother was traffic manager at the

Train at the train stations in Plaue and Gräfenroda as well as for the Feeding of the trains for the magazine on Rehestädter Weg. at

* Wilhelm Kaper's testimony was printed in: Edgar Mayer & Thomas Mehner: The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich. The secret of

Dreiecks Arnstadt-Wechmar-Ohrdruf, Kopp Verlag, Rottenburg 2002, p. 133 ff.

** Fritz Schörnig, who appears in numerous statements and letters, was a member of the KPD during the Third Reich and, according to his own statements, was imprisoned in a concentration camp during this time. After the end of the Second World War, he worked to build up the KPD in Thuringia, working closely with Soviet diplomats and the military, with whom he was considered a confidant. For a while, Schörnig was first secretary of the SED district leadership in Arnstadt before, after various other tasks, he was promoted to colonel and military attache of the GDR in what was then CSSR. From 1967, Schörnig, as chairman of the commission for research into the history of the local workers' movement, tried to come to terms with the history of the Arnstadt area. His role and his knowledge of the National Socialist secret projects in this region are unclear, but it must be assumed that he is well informed about some aspects (further p. 116).

During an interrogation at the Wachsenburg, Schörnig even threatened him with imprisonment if he didn't talk about the trains from Pilsen, Brück, Karlshagen and Norway. He said it in railwayman's German, and Schörnig couldn't do anything with it, so a useless record was written. He was expelled from the SED.

Now I would like to give you some information about my work. I belonged at the same time to the scientists (as a designer) and also to the scientific area of Dr. Hans Kammler. I made the constructions for the test tower at Rohrensee and also the rocket tower in Rudisleben.

Both systems were manufactured by the steel construction and forging company in Arnstadt (Gehrenerstraße) and also built by this company.* The steel tower at Rohrensee was 18 meters high and had a

Cable pull device over a distance of 56 meters. The attempt by the scientists and by Dr. Kammler with the miracle weapon

— i.e. a small A-weapon — took place on March 4, 1945 at 9:32 p.m. The brightness was so strong that we even saw it in Rudisleben, where we were working on the rocket tower. The next day we learned that there was a great shock, around 200 to 250 prisoners had simply left, and 150 to 200 had serious burn injuries, and some SS men had died or had serious injuries.

On March 12, 1945 at 10:14 p.m. there was another attempt, also in this area of Rohrensee, where a new explosive was tested.

For me, the greatest success as a designer was that my

was, as evidenced by documents cited later in the book. For his biography see also: Andrea Kirchschrager, Ulrich Lappe, Peter Unger (ed.): Chronicle of Arnstadt, Verlag Kirchschrager, Arnstadt 2003, pp. 418/419.

* Based on previous statements, we sought this company. According to a hint, there should be another picture there that shows one of the launch towers. However, our efforts were unsuccessful.

Rocket tower for the large, over 30 meter high rocket on 16.

March 1945 in Rudisleben was the launch of the large rocket. Around

At 11:02 p.m.* this unique rocket lifted off against the sky with a large trail of fire. We celebrated for three days.

from dr Kammler, I was then commissioned to secure documents and also took part in two meetings in Wechmar in the restaurant there and one in the Fürst Günther School in Arnstadt.

Hitler was in the FHQu twice: on March 21, 1945 for a short time and on March 27 and 28, 1945 for a large staff meeting, where there was a dispute with Speer, since Speer did not give Hitler the miracle weapon and Dr. Kammler was supported.

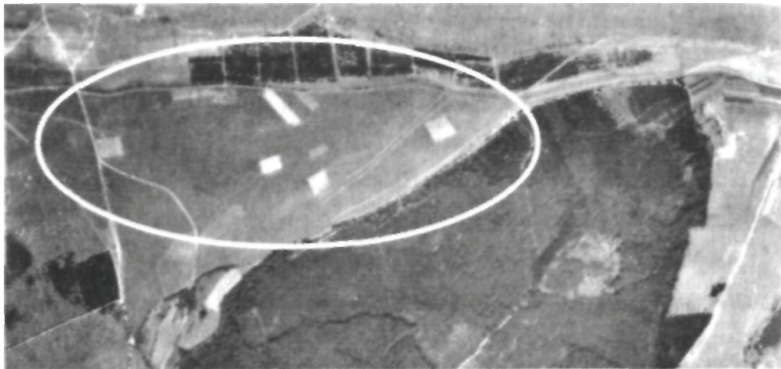
Were secured under the direction of Dr. Rittermann about 24 to 28 so-called boxes, which were housed in different places. There was close collaboration between Dr.

Kammler, Dr. Ritterman and Dr. Seuffert, and many members of the nobility were also employed.

Now you will [...] ask: 'Why doesn't this person [...] come and simply testify?' — Well [...] you cannot guarantee confidential treatment of information if requested. Unfortunately, there are people for whom human life is worth nothing, and these people implement the oath of 1945 (also in their descendants). These people have money and therefore power. I'm also 84 years old, but after 1945 Dr. Rittermann received a new job with an individual contract in [...], even became a believer, and they even took care of [...]. As you can see, we are still doing very well today. So you and others will only ever get a small piece of the big one. [...]

Sincerely for today: Your W (X)«

* The time given differs somewhat depending on the witness, it is spoken of 11:02 p.m., 11:04 p.m. or "around 11 p.m.".



The area of the »triangle« in the northern section of the Ohrdruf military training area on August 12, 1944 (above) and on July 19, 1945 (below). On March 4, 1945, according to numerous contemporary witnesses, the test of a

Small nuclear weapons took place, which was followed by another, special test on March 12th.

Independently from that, if the both experiments the

changed the soil surface condition of the triangle, it remains to be seen that

there are clear differences in the structure of the terrain when considering the two

Compare aerial photos. In addition, there is one in the triangle

crater-shaped structure, which is now overgrown with birch trees and is present

exactly at the point that was noted on a map by a contemporary witness as the "point of explosion". Are these just coincidences? (Source aerial photo:

AERIAL PHOTO DATABASE, engineering office HG Carls, Würzburg)

A second reaction, which was given to various articles, should also be presented here. As it turned out, it came from the driver who had chauffeured Hans Kammler around the country in Thuringia during the war. As we now know, Kammler actually had a special driver in Thuringia who was always waiting for him in Crawinkel, while the main driver had to stay there and look forward to a few quiet hours. This system of switching to another driver was entirely in keeping with Kammler's ideas of secrecy, that no one should know all the places where he exercised control.

They have called [...] for some information about what is happening around Arnstadt and the Jonas Valley to be given to you. Yes, do you even know what danger you and Herr Mehner are exposing yourself to? All is not gold and silver in this matter, but some people have brimstone on their hands in this matter. In addition there are two more oaths, once that of the Waffen-SS around Dr. Ing. Kammler (SS-Obergruppenfuhrer and General of the Waffen-SS) and once that of the scientists around Dr.

Seufert from Berlin (not about Dr. Diebner). In addition, there are the powerful of this world, who do not wish any Germans a scientific victory, not even 57 years after the end of the war, which you will find in the USA, in Israel and also in a group in Germany.

I myself [...] was with the Waffen-SS under the direction of Dr. Kammler and so at some events as his driver.

I have already spoken to Mr. [...] in W. a number of times and given some points as I am not entirely bound by the oath.

You can see that Mr [...] was on the right track, it was done quickly [...] and that was the end of the research.

I can't tell what results you're getting over and over

have Arnstadt. On the one hand, the city of Arnstadt should be the Reichs city of the new German Reich, just as the state of Thuringia was supposed to be the starting point for the Fourth German Reich. To this end, Dr. Kammler worked closely with the nobility in this direction. Due to the age, I can no longer give you exact dates, but some places and events.

In Weimar, the then mayor of Arnstadt, Huhn, was informed of the project and Arnstadt's elevation to the status of imperial city. But the man was stopped by his deputy, a Dr. Elbracht, dwarfed.

Huhn wasn't a big Nazi, which is why he wasn't immediately deposed by the Americans in 1945 and then taken to the West with his furniture [...]. About the secret command things of Dr. Kammler has no documents, the orders all had to be destroyed upon receipt. Important people around Dr. At that time, Kammler were: Dr.

Ritterman (sometimes wore or had another name), Colonel Streve, Kom. Bräuning, SS-Hauptstf. Oldeboershuis, Dr. Freier and Dr. Weidemann.

Consultations with various people took place in the Prince Günther School in Arnstadt, in the manors of Dornheim and Günthersleben, in the restaurant on the market in Stadtfilm, in Gehren and in Gehlberg. Very special consultations were held in the Wechmarer Löwen and in the Erfurter Hof in Arnstadt carried out, not only gentlemen from the military and science of the Reichspost were present, but also various gentlemen of the German nobility. Dr. Kammler also had his own Bunker near the Eulenberg and the FHQu, which ran under the alias >Bernstadt<.

I often had to drive him away from the tunnel entrance in the neutral car. He used the entrance behind the [...] courtyard in [...] or the entrance, which only a few knew,

left towards Bittstädt [...] and from there left about 80 meters, [...]. Sometimes Major Budnick was there too, he had messages from Speer with him, which the two of them discussed in the car. It was particularly difficult in March 1945, when Hitler attended meetings at his FHQu near Arnstadt twice.

Before that I even had to sleep in the car, Dr. Kammler had consultations in Dornheim, Wechmar, Luisental, Stadtilm and again Wechmar and then Arnstadt. On these days the gentlemen could not be spoken to. After the last consultation with Hitler, I heard Dr. Kammler said to Speer: 'Now we've all lost, but we have one victory, he doesn't get the miracle weapons, he can still have so many seizures.' After that I didn't see Speer in the area anymore. I brought my boss to Stadtilm, from there he flew to Pilsen. My car had become a Red Cross car, my papers showed that I had been the driver for a medical officer and that I was a paramedic myself. [...] Well [...], you see how the situation is. Maybe we can [...] talk sometime. I will speak to you [...] Best regards, your [...]«

Unfortunately, the meeting did not take place, for which we also learned the reason, which is not relevant here, because it was of a purely internal nature. In addition, massive criticism was leveled at certain developments that crystallized in the period from summer to autumn 2002, but which we could not or not fully influence.

During this phase we learned that there are some groups which - partly independent of other international structures which want to protect the so-called secrets and invest a lot of money for it - would pursue their own goals and which we should know about. Mentioned were a)
Personal protection of the former GDR, b) SS group >Great German Reich<, c) SS science group, d) two American

niche investigation teams that search for traces of German high technology and have the task of removing them so that everything remains secret.

In the course of our research it has become clear to us that there are actually several "knowing" groups that sometimes take very different standpoints with regard to the topic being dealt with. Some want something to come out, others don't. However, it is far from always clear to us what exact objectives the various groups are pursuing with their work, and some things also appear to be very vague, so that there is no point in worrying about them at this point.

In any case, up to the present day we have received a great deal of additional information, have been able to make some interesting contacts and have been able to collect many small and a few large building blocks, some of which have already been researched and some of which still need to be researched. All in all, the picture is slowly completing. Some of the new information could only be heard in subordinate clauses, but - curiously enough - it can often be reconciled with other accounts, some of which have only been known for a short time. Let's give an example of this:

Perhaps some readers who are already of advanced age and live in the Arnstadt or Ohrdruf area will be able to remember that Wismut AG or SDAG Wismut was in the area in the 1950s (until around 1954/55) and drilled test holes (several hundred up to 50 meters deep, as a Wismut employee involved informed us). This also happened in other parts of Thuringia because the Russians were looking for pitchblende to get the raw material for their nuclear weapons. So became

for example at Suhler Friedberg

Uranium ore was mined, while other sections of the terrain were examined in flight with Russian helicopters that had special probes hanging from a steel cable below them (e.g. in the greater Ilmenau area, as contemporary witnesses confirmed).

Whichever way you look at it, the following questions have to be asked: Why did the Russians come up with the idea of searching for uranium ore in this section of Thuringia? Was it pure coincidence? Or was there more behind it? Did the Russians
specific information for your search? If so, from whom did they receive it?

Perhaps there is a logical explanation for all this: an eyewitness told us that pitchblende deposits existed near Arnstadt and that not only Joachimstal, the well-known location for uranium ore mining, was used by the German side during the Second World War to get hold of the basic material for the »bomb«. There it is

been more...

A monstrous claim indeed! However, since the location became known to us and strangely enough there was also a "quarry" there during the war - which does not necessarily have to have anything to do with it, however, because the material of interest may have been mined underground in the course of the tunneling work carried out in the area - , we wondered a bit.

We were even more amazed that a few months ago we received information from an expert in radiation protection that there could also be uranium ore veins in limestone formations, while a few years ago this opinion was not even hinted at and we, we freely admit it , had only heard of such occurrences in much harder rock strata. And then - coincidence now turned somersaults - a report reached the media in Thuringia, according to which in certain

sections of the federal state radon gas, a radioactive decay product, occurs in increased concentrations.*

Until now, everyone had believed that something like this only existed in East Thuringia or in the Ore Mountains. But that was, as it turned out, a mistake:

"Like the former mining area around Ronneburg, the Thuringian Forest is also one of the extremely radon-polluted areas in the Free State."**

The largest daily newspaper in Thuringia, the *Thüringer Allgemeine*, printed a map in its August 17, 2004 edition showing the zones with a particularly high suspected radon class (class 3). Arnstadt and its surroundings do not belong to it (only class 1 is noted here, which does not mean anything, however, since potential uranium ore veins or even a small deposit may lie at greater depths), but the whole area southwest of it does. A center of the highest load extends north of the southern Thuringian town of Suhl, reaching almost as high as Ohrdruf, while its most easterly limit point is Ilmenau.

Somehow that's strange. The activities of Wismut in the 1950s are also strange. Is most strange

the statement of a witness that there is a pitchblende deposit under a mountain near Arnstadt (which, as our research showed, strangely enough, nobody knows). And it becomes extremely strange when you know that in the course of our investigations there are also indications that German nuclear research activities in World War II were not only

* *Thüringer Allgemeine*, August 17, 2004, article: "Limit value. The state government has known about the radon in the Thuringian Forest for years, but prefers to remain silent". (Similar reports also appeared in other daily newspapers in Thuringia, e.g. in *Freies Wort*, edition for Suhl, September 2, 2004, p.3.)

** Ibid.

AWO area, but also in the area of Gehren, Groß Breitenbach and Ilmenau (which witnesses pointed out years ago) - all areas with the highest suspected radon class!

With all due restraint on our part, the following questions must therefore be allowed: Did the geological authorities responsible during the Third Reich also investigate other areas when exploring the area around Arnstadt and Ohrdruf? Did they "accidentally" discover the occurrence of certain substances that could be of interest to them in the medium term? Was that why this area of Thuringia was chosen to install an underground high-tech zone?

Certainly, provocative questions. But the Russian search for pitchblende deposits in the post-war period and many other elements make us wonder what actually happened here during and after the war.

The reaction of the responsible environmental authority in Thuringia and the state government is also interesting. People had known about the problem since 1995, but the map with the suspected areas stayed on the desk for years, until Stiftung Warentest published its own study in 2004. sloppiness?

Ignorance? Coincidence? We can't judge that, but the problem of radon pollution in Thuringia is a good example of how certain sensitive information is handled by the responsible authorities and political leaders. Can you imagine, dear reader, what would happen if certain authorities had information about certain subterranean artificial structures that were still used for secret technological developments, possibly even nuclear research? Please answer yourself!

the during

Nazi era

We have now reached a point that we want to take up and examine a little more closely, so as not to give the impression that we have missed the topic of this book, which is Secret Reich Matter: Thuringia and the German Atomic Bomb: the nuclear research activities in this area. Due to certain imminent developments, we only want to reproduce part of what was conveyed to us by witnesses or was actually ascertainable. Hans Rittermann claimed that essential elements (i.e. important installations) of German nuclear research were located below the military training area at Ohrdruf, but that there were also other locations (e.g. Stadtilm and Lehesten). Other witnesses, some of whom were high-ranking, also pointed out the existence of secret facilities under the military training area, so that this area would have to be subjected to intensive geophysical exploration in order to determine whether the statements correspond to the facts or not.

Of course one can retreat to the position of the skeptic and say that none of this is true, but it is not enough to make "statements" in this regard. Just as our critics demand evidence, they must also prove that there was no nuclear research in the area, once you look at the location of the Stadtilm middle school with its "nuclear cellar".

refrains. In science it is not enough claim that a hypothesis is to be rejected because it sounds improbable or appears unpopular, but it must be proved conversely that this is the case! Of course, this connection is repeatedly forgotten in the whole heated, partly public discussion, because otherwise certain credibility problems could also arise for the other side.

In the statements and information we have compiled there are, of course, indications of where

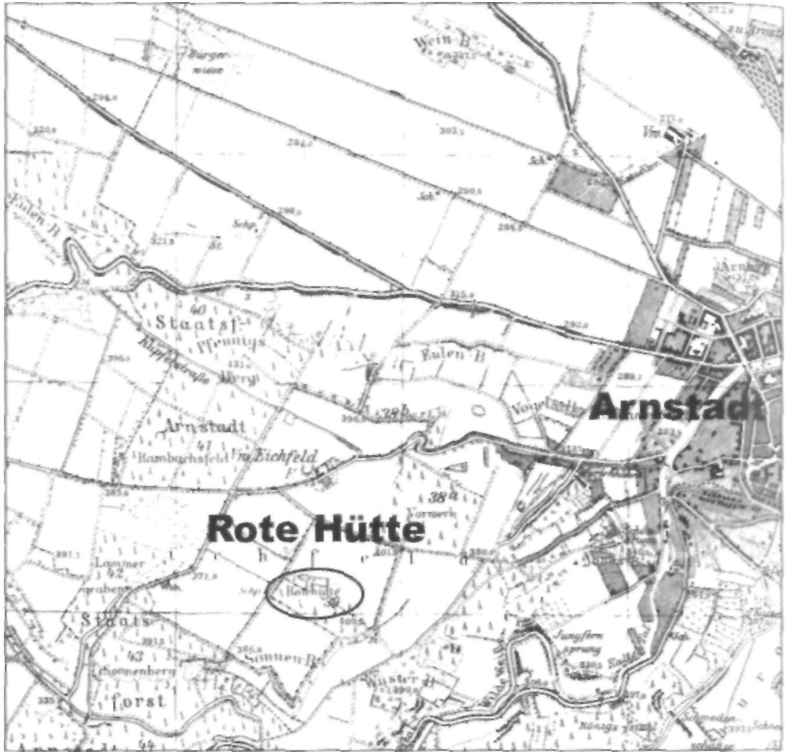
te of nuclear research in the AWO area. Most of the Witnesses didn't want to say anything on this sensitive topic, but sometimes they forgot their caution when getting excited about certain topics, so that every now and then - almost as an aside - one could snatch up a bit of information. These indications are often vague and relate to entire sections of terrain, but there are also a few specific details, e.g. B. in a statement from September 10, 2002: "[...] S III was one of many designations, such as 'Burg' [...], the main designation was AWO, which was protected until two years ago - AWO same security area Arnstadt-Wechmar-Ohrdruf. It was one

Secret designation of Minister Speer and Dr. engineer
chamberman

The "Rote Hütte" object was already created in September 1941 by the Reichspost in connection with the Wehrmacht, but was given a completely different role from mid-1943, which was changed again in 1944 in connection with the research tasks of the Reichspost and Kammler's SS research. There was no uranium factory there [...]. Radiation technology* and explosives were being worked on in the area of "Rote Hütte" and MDW [MDW = Mitteldeutsches Werk, editor's note. author]. With the uranium it's a different matter."

Of course, this statement can be interpreted from several sides, since (see footnote) the term "radiation technology" cannot be assigned to just one research department. To the Mitteldeutsche Werk mentioned in the statement, the

* The term "radiation technology" appears both in connection with atomic research (the atomic bomb was also sometimes referred to as a radiation weapon) and - as will be shown later - with an energy impulse weapon that fights targets from the ground or from the air could.



The area west of Arnstadt with the »Rote Hütte« location.

Several testimonies let it be known that the interesting installations are west of Arnstadt in the direction of the Ohrdruf military training area.

has already been the subject of our considerations on several occasions, will still have to be dealt with, because more happened there than established historiography lets us know - if it lets us know anything at all. Not only was work done at this location on aircraft, but as far as we could find out, there was a facility there from 1944 onwards that served to enrich material suitable for nuclear weapons. The group working there was headed by a scientist whose

role in the Third Reich should finally be looked at more closely - Prof. Dr. Gustav Hertz, the gentleman who had been removed from his teaching positions by the National Socialists because of his origins (he was considered a half-Jew). Then it got loud

official historiography, which should not come as a surprise, since many scientists who worked on certain projects during the Second World War suddenly had »gaps« in their biographies in the post-war accounts.

After the end of the war, Hertz appeared with the Russians and was a sought-after specialist there. His name is still mentioned today in connection with the Soviet atomic bomb.

Hertz, as we know, after his release from the teaching posts for the company Siemens & Halske, so it is not surprising that he also appears in connection with the testimonies in the AWO area: both in the Siemens plant in Arnstadt and also at the nearby locations Central German

Werk (Ohrdruf Strasse) and Sophienbrunn (located on the edge of the Ohrdruf military training area; south of Wechmar), where he carried out special tests in a large barn and in a probably existing underground object (we will come back to the matter of the Mitteldeutsche Werk). The impression that the company Siemens & Halske played a very decisive role in the German nuclear (research) program is growing stronger and stronger, and this role has only been insufficiently examined to date.

Incidentally, the information given by contemporary witnesses increasingly clear at the end of 2002, possibly because the book *The Atomic Bomb and the Third Reich* was published at that time was published, which in turn led to some representations in the media. In these reports were new information presented, but also the picture of Hans Rittermann

published, whereby the latter happened in one case shortly before the publication of the book mentioned. We hoped at the time that this would lead to reactions. And indeed they existed.* Three of them will be presented in excerpts, whereby we want to refrain from any comment. »[...], November 4th, 2002 Dear Mr [...], [...] you have achieved that the name of a great organizer of the scientists of the Third Reich is now in many mouths. In doing so, they [...] created a sense of betrayal in various groups. Until your publication

chung was the name of Dr. Ing. Baurat Hans Rittermann is an obligation and a hope for us, as we are all bound by an oath that also goes to our children's children. First of all, you are right, German science must be treated with justice, but you, like me, live in this Federal Republic of Germany, so you can scold the Russians, but not say a word against the Americans and Jews. [...] are also in possession of all the documents, as far as they could get their hands on in 1945 in the AWO area, about the status of research, development and construction. I can't write more. I [...] worked on the research council, was in the research group of Dr. Kammler was therefore a high-ranking SS man [...].

dr Rittermann was a man who was always able

* The publication of the picture and obituary of Hans David Rittermann alias Hans Hoffmann alias Dr. Hans Klaus Peter generated some strange reactions. For example, an editor who worked for the news magazine Der Spiegel was interested in these two aspects. In a telephone conversation with one of the authors, he was only concerned with the picture and the advertisement, which of course he later said nothing about in a malicious and defamatory article in the magazine mentioned (issue 33/2002, p. 46/47). A typical example of "serious" journalism!

was to see a solution on the horizon, he was a real Berliner, although he was born in Upper Silesia near Kreuzburg (he only lived in Berlin from the age of 2). He received his education abroad: France, England, USA, Soviet Union, Sweden and ... He was a building inspector and scientist for project planning.

He not only had an apartment in Arnstadt, I know that he also had apartments in Ilmenau, Weimar and Kahla (at least one room for himself). An SS clerk listened to this man just as much as a Minister Speer or Goering or among the researchers a Heisenberg, Gerlach, von Weizsäcker, Diebner; [...], Fischer, Kaltenbrunner and Ohlendorf.* Actually, Dr. Rittermann should be erected a monument because he was the one who convinced Minister Speer at the secret conference in Wechmar that Hitler should have the miracle weapon (nuclear, radiation or uranium weapon) may not receive. His greatest opponent at the time was Otto Ohlendorf, who accused Minister Speer of working against the Führer's order. The Plenipotentiary of the Leader for Radiation Research, General of the Waffen SS Dr. Kammler, however, was able to take action: von Ohlendorf had disappeared from the scene.

You must know what the AWO area - the secret name became known through carelessness, just as we still do not know today how you got hold of the photo of Hans Rittermann, since there were no photos of him - for has a scope. But the Jonas Valley is just a small thing on a large scale. dr Rittermann had nothing to do with them

to do construction work in the Jonas Valley, he belonged directly to the clipper construction staff. The tunnels known today were another object, which was under the SS, but not for the FHQu,

* The omission in the sentence gives the impression that Kaltenbrunner, Fischer and Ohlendorf were researchers. Of course this is not the case.

belonged to the research objects, the offices and factories.

At the same time, I would like to draw your attention to the incorrect figures for the prisoners who died.

Prisoners and SS men worked in unison with Americans and Russians in two objects until 1952.

I would like to show you the apartments of Dr. knight man in Inform Arnstadt: in Bärwinkelstraße near the fire

wehr, in the villa of the >Blaudruck< with the Wagner family, on the 2nd floor in the >Erfurter Hof<, on Blumentalstrasse in the small villa of the contractor Hoy (attic apartment) and then again with Frau Wagner in Mühlweg. you will dr. You can't find Rittermann in any register of residents of the city of Arnstadt or any other place, because he was only a guest, so he was never registered with the police. [...]

Your [...]."

»[...]

e.g. Hd. Mr. Mayer & Mehner [...]

[...], i.e. 11/14/2002

Dear Authors Mayer & Mehner, I read your new book

with excitement and was visibly surprised that some of my former comrades opened their mouths and shared some secrets with you.

The name AWO should not and should not be known, and the picture of Hans Rittermann speaks against all agreements.

Well, who cares, we're all old men after all, and I can't say whether our children and grandchildren keep to our agreements [...].

Well, I was also active in this area with the SS in the construction staff from Dr. Ing Kammler and was with the Yanks and

dr Kammler, who at that time used the name Dr. Hausmann wore, from 25.05. until May 28, 1945 in the AWO area. Our dear damsel from the Veste Wachsenburg, who still lives in the nursing home today, can attest to who lived at the Veste at that time. It was about the removal of systems from the MDW Arnstadt, the Polte and the flying objects from Luisental.

So we, the Americans, have the freedom for us future bought. Of course, our boss was so good at it that he didn't deliver all of our large research facilities to the Americans and bring them to the FHQu, the offices and the various companies. On the contrary, we had the opportunity to close some open entrances. However, we did not succeed with the systems at Crawinkel/Wölfis. SS and concentration camp inmates had to continue working here, even when the Russians were in Thuringia.

However, the work there was for Dr. Kammler, the gentlemen of the Reichspost etc. not interesting, but it was a matter where the comrade from Ardenne bought his freedom [...] from the Americans or the Russians, since the Americans from Ardenne had simply forgotten. The Americans only saw the planes and rockets, but not the research facilities, etc.

I can bear witness to the first attempt on March 4, 1945 above Rohrensee, with the entire research staff being in Ringhofen, Sophienbrunn and Wechmar. However, you only saw the bright flash and a unique colored rising cloud. The test of a [...] then took place on March 12, 1945 above Rohrensee. There was a very bright flash here, but no cloud. Compared to many of the dead and injured that had occurred during the first test, there were none here. There were also no headaches and no nosebleeds, as was the case with the first test.

Some of those who were present [at the first test?] in Ringhofen had visual difficulties, and also some residents of Rohrensee, Mühlberg and Bittstädt, who despite

given the air raid warning were affected.* I cannot say anything about March 16, 1945, but at the time from March 22 to 29 March 1945.

It is correct, the Führer and all the greats were there, and on March 27, 1945 the big staff meeting was at the FHQu near Arnstadt, where Minister Speer, in consultation with Dr. Ing. Kammler and the other greats said "No" to the wonder weapon. At that time we had to take over the security of the consultations in Wechmar, Dornheim and Arnstadt, whereby Minister Speer was always very careful** and we in the SS had to secure everything. These were also the comrades of the 6th SS Mountain infantry division, which had a base in the moated castle in Günthersleben, and a special SS staff, which was housed in the vicar's house in Wechmar. I was also there when the planes on 27.128. March 1945 flew off the autobahn near Wechmar.

Of course, Maria W. was formerly Dr. Erika Leimert, I can say this with 100 percent, there were [...]. The family lived in Japan until 1979 and from then on near Lake Constance; however, not in Germany under the names Leimert and W. (but she still used the name W. in written

* This is a small but very important element in the overall context: nuclear detonations produce an extremely bright flash of light (the US military and scientists who witnessed the "first" testing of a nuclear weapon wore heavy-duty goggles such as used in welding. They described

the lightning and the immediately rising cloud of fire as "brighter than a thousand To sunbathe".). If you look in the direction of such a detonation with unprotected eyes, the corresponding after-effects are to be expected. We know the name of a person who lost his eyesight due to his presence in the area at the time and later complained bitterly during conversations.

** This description fits the personality structure of Speer exactly, who certainly did not have to wait until after the war to squirm like a snake in order not to let the entanglements affecting his person become too obvious.

traffic.) From 1944 she was directly subordinate to the Research Council and was with Dr. Diebner's group.

They ask about members of the HJ in Wechmar who were there. I think there were eight Hitler Youth from Wechmar at the time, but there must be a few more from the BDM today. I can remember one who lived in [...], who was present at all operations, even when Eva Braun on 27./28. March 1945 had to sleep in the local inn on the market.

She even got a picture of Eva as a present.

[...]

Yours sincerely - with certification of my letter [...]"

»Arnstadt, September

28th, 2002 Dear Mr.

[...], the man you are looking for on your page 4 must actually be known to all older residents of Arnstadt. It is Dr. Rittermann, who worked for the city. He had the small room on the right as an office on the 2nd floor of the town hall at the building authority. He was a civil engineer from Berlin and had the title of building officer at an office that I can no longer remember. At the same time he was in a high position with the Nazis, but he never wore a uniform. He had an apartment or a room near the employment office, where I always saw him riding his bike. After that he stayed at Eschrich's inn on Feldstrasse with another engineer, Wagner, who worked at Siemens and Halske, not at Siemens and Schuckert. After the war he lived with Bau-Hoy on Blumentalstrasse. There he arranged the affairs for the former Lord Mayor Huhn. At that time the Russians asked Mayor Huhn to pack up the furniture. He was always there, as were two high-ranking Russians. I can still do well

remember when one day red Schörnig was in the room and simply wanted some writings from Huhn. There was between Dr. Rittermann and Schörnig had a heated argument until Rittermann then said something in Russian to the two Russians

Leutnants said and just threw these Schörnig down the stairs. At the time I was surprised that the man even spoke Russian. I can also confirm that he brought back many Arnstadt residents that Schörnig had brought to Buchenwald, including my family. What of Dr. Rittermann then became, I cannot say. With kind regards

[...]

Apparently there are still a few old Arnstadt residents who can remember Mr. Rittermann and what he did in the 1940s before he disappeared from the city "overnight" one day in 1948.

Before we want to present the next witness report, a few fundamental remarks. As we pointed out earlier in the book, the statements we've compiled here are generally somewhat older in date - we "released" them after carefully studying the contents and uncovering several hot leads, their consideration and their results only will be of interest in future presentations. This means that the most up-to-date research status is not published here, but rather we understand this book as a connecting element between what has already been published by us and what will follow, regardless of whether what follows in the future is reported by others or by us will be.

The next statement is very accurate in some parts, and interestingly, something physical was even transmitted: a photograph. It is well known that a picture says more than a thousand

words. We included this photo in the publication, although we debated at length whether we should do so at all. In the end we decided to do it, but for the time being we have to omit some essential information in the text. It would not be in the spirit of the cause to serve certain things on a silver platter to others who research the topic in general and who identify themselves as our competitors and/or critics at every suitable and inappropriate opportunity — let them

Show gentlemen what they can do! The photo published on the next page offers the best opportunity for this, especially since - as we heard - it was recently published in another

connection is also said to have been shown on television.

The testimony that went with it let us know the following: »[...] I know from my time in the SS and through my work for the

Reichspost some details very precisely. I am perhaps the only person still alive in the Längwitzgau who worked in the Gossel plants until 1952, but for the lwane. I owe my life to a mistaken name for a red in 1952 [...]. All my friends who had to work in the plants, from the Reichspost and my SS comrades were shot by the Russians on November 6, 1952 (16 from the post and 42 from the SS). The former Russian and Hungarian concentration camp prisoners, Freemasons and Jews who had to work there — I can't say anything about the others — were also shot that day. [...] In the SS I [...] held a high position and shared with Fritz Sauckel and his

Reichsstatthalteramt in Weimar has a lot to do with regard to the AWO area. I enclose a photo. On it you can see: Fritz Sauckel, [...], [...], Knaus, [...], behind them Hammer, [...], Oberländer, Schrickel, Temlin, [...] and [...]. Now your [...] eyes must open. dr Oberlander, also Reichspostrat



The picture shows: 1st row (from left to right) - Fritz Sauckel, [...], [...], Knaus, [...]; 2nd row (from left to right) - Hammer, [...], Oberländer, Schrickel, Temlin, [...] and [...]. All the people pictured here played a special role in connection with the AWO area or were involved in certain processes that were of the greatest importance at the end of the war.

dr Ing. Hans Rittermann, a man you know, who had so much to say and was not allowed to be seen in any photos (this photo was taken for Berlin) — will tell you something.

You know, an oath binds. [...] [...] 03.02.2003«

We're excited to see what other researchers find out about this image - if they find out anything at all.

As the last important eyewitness testimony to the events in the AWO area, we want to publish a report that was written on October 26, 1947 - by

Harry Anton, who worked as a pastor in Wechmar during the war. According to the source information available to us, this report was originally given to a person who was very surprised about it because they considered what was presented in it to be dubious. However, our research and other testimonies show that Anton may have played a role that no one in his official capacity would have credited him with. And that was perhaps his big advantage, since he was considered a person of trust in the community, with whom you could tell things that might not have been suitable for other ears, such as the mayor's, for example.

The protocol* has the following wording (slightly smoothed out): »Report on the Wechmar location in the AWO catchment area The people and citizens of Wechmar were open to the constant billeting of troops who were on the military training area. A burden, especially in the last months of the war, was the garrisoning of a replacement unit, which the SS housed here as a diversion. From the 6th SS Mountain Infantry Division and the SS Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler" in Günther's living castle and the SS office

from Dr. The residents received chamberlains in my vicarage not much with. Only the vacationers at the front were a little grumpy,

* An accompanying letter was attached to the protocol, which said, among other things: »As a reminder: Harry Anton was born on October 25, 1908 in Gamstädt and was pastor in Wechmar from June 17, 1934. He stood by our side and was a loyal one party member. He was an active officer in the SS from August 15, 1939 to June 1, 1945 in the field and in his home country. That is why he also made his apartment (parish house) available to the SS as an office and also conducted talks with the castle owner in Günthersleben so that the 6th SS Mountain Infantry Division could set up its office there and the SS Leibstandarte »Adolf Hitler' had a room.«

what the SS is doing here, but the female labor service was there in the camp in Wechmar.

On May 27, 1943, three English planes flew over the site for the first time that day. It was not until midday on April 24, 1944 that air combat broke out over the town. Two Englishmen and three Americans were shot down by our fighters. Unfortunately also two [own] fighters, but all pilots were able to reach the ground with the parachute. on the 7th

and February 8, 1945 Wechmar was again attacked. Once the Thümag* was to be destroyed and on the other day a special aircraft which was kept in a barn. However, the Americans mistook the designation "right" for "left" from the Autobahn, and five people died. The aircraft was then specially guarded by the Kammler SS. It is now owned by the Americans.**

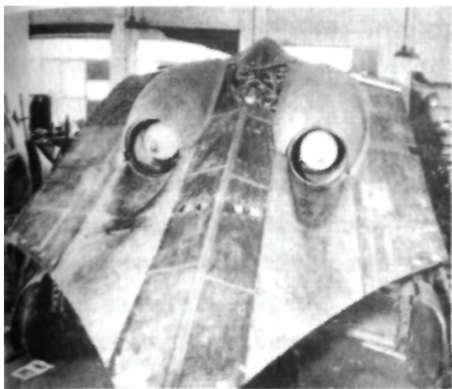
On February 23, 1945, SS Dr. Kammler in Wechmar
be killed. Eight "Mustangs" were deployed around noon for this purpose. They should dr. Destroy Kammler on the Autobahn.*** Dr.
But Kammler was warned by a woman from Arnstadt and spent the whole day at the Löwen in Wechmar. A Wechmarer and a Mühlberger were shot by the Mustangs.

On March 4, 1945, one of the miracle weapons was fired for the first time near Rohrensee. Unfortunately, many people died, not only among the prisoners but also among the SS

* Thümag was a company in Wechmar that was involved in the production of armaments, among other things, during the war.

** It was probably a Horten type flying wing aircraft (fighter version). Aircraft of this type were also manufactured in Friedrichroda, among other places.

*** If such a targeted operation took place, it can be assumed that there was a traitor in Kammler's environment who reported indirectly or directly to an Allied secret service.



were large, shot.

The corpses were burned above Ringhofen for two days.

[...] On March 16, 1945 in Rudisleben at

Arnstadt for the first time launched large rocket, which would have easily can reach America.

Fuselage segment with engines of

But back to Wech

the Horten flying wing built in Friedrichroda mar. It is correct that aircraft (1945).

SS site manager and General

dr Kammler held numerous secret consultations with his SS, the Deutsche Reichspost and Minister Speer in the Löwen restaurant. The time after the age of 21 was particularly active.

March to March 28 here on site. All the SS were in this inn

Greats, all ministers and all scientists of the Deutsche Reichspost and some gentlemen from the German nobility. I can't say anything about these consultations because I wasn't allowed to take part in any, but I was close to Wechmar. I also cannot say what happened to Hitler at the Führer's headquarters in Arnstadt. I can only say that on the evening of March 27, some Japanese and some Germans left Wechmar after their planes had been prepared, and I had to go to Elgersburg at 11 p.m. in the evening. There seven Japanese had killed themselves, another four were dying. They had taken poison. I had to bring the bodies to Suhl, where they were cremated immediately and the ashes were thrown away on the [following]

was scattered in the evening.

Wechmar had a big problem with the Sophienbrunnen and dear Mr. Viau. What this man, the one from Saxony

Anhalt came and was suddenly able to buy the property, actually did it properly, is only vaguely known. Experiments had been carried out there in a laboratory that went against all humanity. SS Dr. Kammmler once said: 'There's a gallows everywhere for this person, but that's too good for this animal.' I don't know what the Americans and Russians found there. However, there was a major removal of things by both powers.

Two more events related to the site that have not been clarified. The Russians carried out a major raid on August 10, 1945, arresting 108 men. After a short interrogation in the administration, all but seven were released. These were taken to Ohrdruf and the Russians succeeded. Among the seven was the wanted officer, former headmaster Schreiner. He could make statements about the housing of the SS in the castle. However, it was not until September 6, 1945 that the Russians were able to remove many SS items from the castle cellar.* On November 20, 1945, the head of Thümag, August Ortlepp, had to report to the Gauleitung in Gotha because of his connections. He handed over important documents of the secret production in the Thümag, which is hidden in Weimar, to the Russians

were.

All the sacrifices in vain. But faith knows: With God nothing is in vain!

Wechmar, October 26, 1947,
signed Harry Anton«

* There are many people involved in research into the Jonas Valley who - inspired by relevant statements from witnesses that we published years ago - are of the opinion that certain things can still be found near the surface at some of the locations mentioned. However, this statement shows several times that much was discovered and taken away by Americans and Russians. The search is therefore likely to be much more difficult than previously assumed.

Nuclear research near Arnstadt - what did the Americans learn about it?

One of the statements presented in the second chapter mentioned that "radiation research" was carried out in the area of the "Rote Hütte" and in the Central German Works (MDW).

Now you have to know that at that time the atomic bomb was mostly used as a "radiation weapon" by those in the know.



The halls of the MDW. (Source aerial photo: image archive AIR PHOTO DATABASE, Ing.-Office HG Carls, Würzburg)

or »radiation bomb«
was designated because this
weapon system - and that was
the new quality of this development
- was supposed to emit radiation -
in order to destroy
deadly the potential
opponent.

the
designation
"Beam Weapon" included
but also a waffle
fen system with which one could
generate high-energy impulses,
about which more will be reported
later. That

MDW (Central German
factory), actually one
branch of

company, the Ohrdruf was on
the right-hand side
street if

you drive from the west of Arnstadt in the direction of Holzhausen. In aerial photos, the grounds of the MDW stand out due to large hall complexes, which were already the subject of considerations in our earlier publications. Aircraft parts were officially produced here, but that was not all.

A few years ago, the author Harald Fäth had already thought about why these halls were so long given their relatively small width, and came to an astonishing assumption: »It is remarkable that these halls bear a really striking resemblance to the

American plutonium have separation facilities in Hanford. [...] Incidentally, there were three such halls in Hanford; two were produced, one was held back as a reserve.«^{*}

The approach was absolutely correct, as will be shown, but it is a pity that this matter was not pursued further. But we will come back to that shortly. That

The terrain on which the MDW was built is also remarkable in other respects. Diagonally opposite the large halls was the construction site for "Amt 800", the foundations of which were erected but then abandoned because the construction work had caused water ingress that obviously could not be stopped. The question is, of course, why this "accident" could have happened at all.

Were there - we received this information from contemporary witnesses - tunnels in this area during the driving work accidentally hit an aquifer?

Irrespective of this, you can see on the aerial photo that in relative proximity to the construction site for the never-completed

^{*} Harald Fäth: Secret command matter - S III Jonastal and the victory weapon production. Further search for traces of Thuringia's Manhattan Project, Amun-Verlag, Schleusingen, 1999, p. 151/152.



put the news office

Reichspost smaller halls stood. what purpose

did these serve when the work on "Amt 800" had long since been abandoned?

We assume that in this

area much more

underground objects were located and probably here too

an access tunnel to the later Führer headquarters was driven underground. Of course we did

Specialists who had to be housed somewhere.

Already in an earlier one publication had one of

The L-shaped foundation of the "Office authors can show that 800" (1) and the halls (2) located not far from it. In this terrain they covered the personnel for the another large facility and the group who had better existing to do? (Source aerial photo: due to the comprehensibility of the image archive LUFTBILD-DATABANK, this object is presented again in detail in order to be able to

Engineering office HG Carls, Würzburg)

look to try a localization of the location.

Years ago at Maxwell Air Force Base Alabama a

Combined Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee document

(CIC) of November 6, 1944, which describes a large underground facility on the western outskirts of Arnstadt (on the Eulenberg side). A German named Heckmann told the Americans after his capture that he had worked here from September 1943 to January 1944 as a member of a special detachment on a multi-sector underground facility.

The special unit in which he worked consisted of 28 men, but was supplemented by 180 civilian workers. According to Heckmann, freedom of movement was severely restricted during the work on the underground installation, and he also needed a special pass.

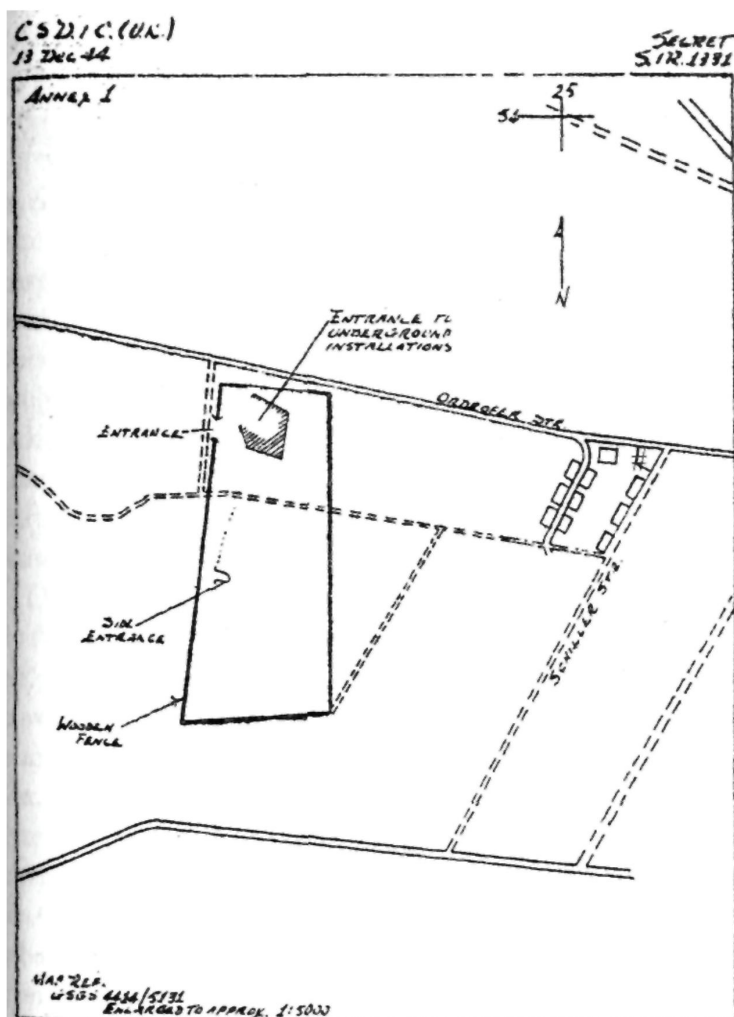
Heckmann, when asked about the purpose of the "bunker," replied that he had heard that a chemical or optical factory was to be set up here. When the work was finished and he had to leave the area, however, there were no indications in this direction.

The terrain in which the system was laid covered an area of 400 x 180 meters and was "very hilly/ mountainous" (originally: "very hilly"). Young fruit trees were planted as camouflage and the area was also surrounded by a two meter high hedge.

There was an above-ground access to the facility, which was in the area of Ohrdruffer Straße. The five underground work areas were of different sizes: three were each 60 meters long, 18 meters wide and seven meters high. Two more measure 50 x 40 meters.

Heckmann made two drawings, which are printed below together with the origin of the document and the witness statement. The second depiction, which shows the structure of the work areas, is not reproduced correctly to scale, but this hardly diminishes the overall impression.

The witness gives the depth of the "bunker" in the

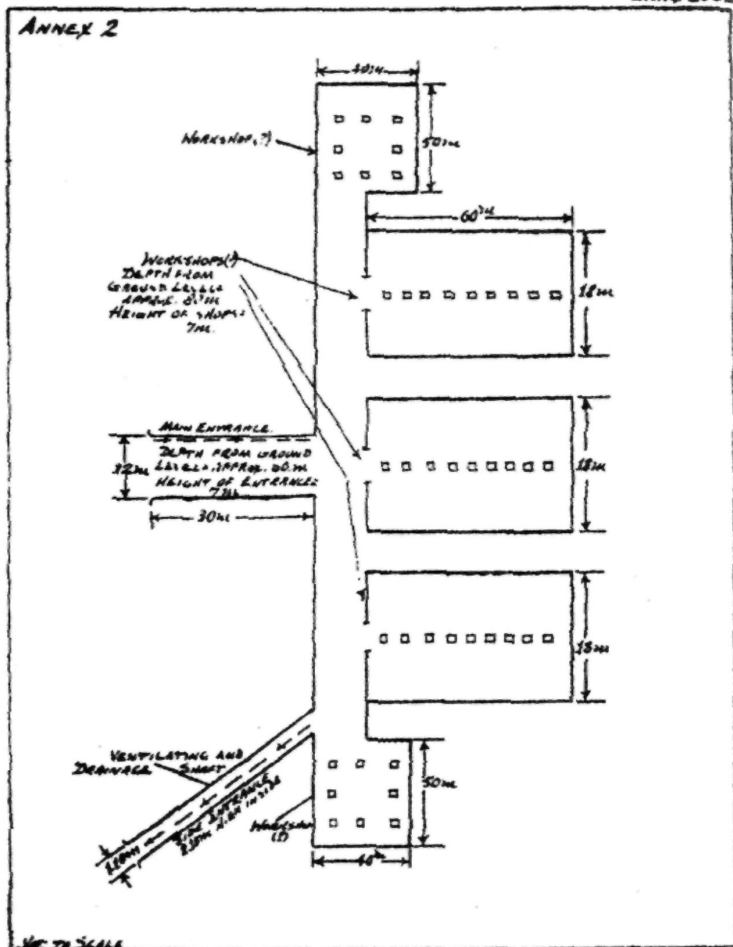


The position of the underground facility described by Heckmann west of Arnstadt. It is located in the Ohrdruffer Straße area at a depth of between 60 and 80 metres. (Source: "Report on further information obtained from Fw CS/674 Fw Heckmann" from November 6, 1944, "Underground Installations at Arnstadt," roll no. A1007, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.)

C.S.D.I.C. (UK.)
13 Dec 44

SECRET
S.I.R. 1931

ANNEX 2



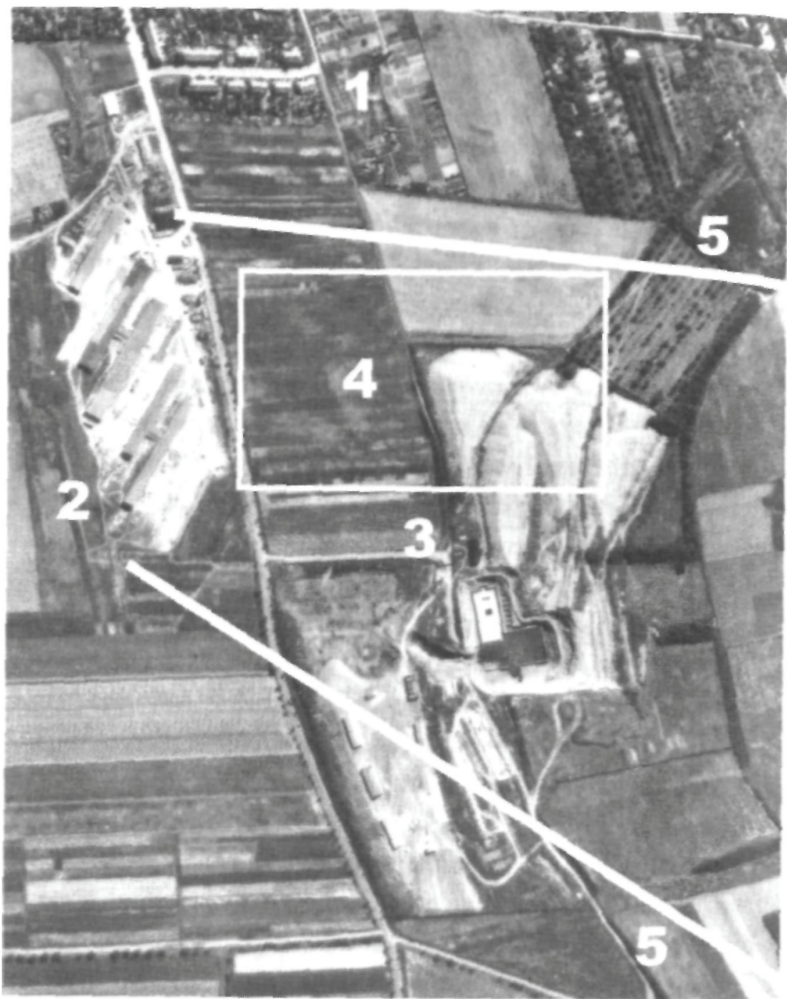
The German prisoner of war Heckmann drew the location of the work areas in this second depiction, but did not take into account the exact scale reproduction.

The area of the entrance not far from Ohrdruf Strasse is 60 meters below ground, which then increases to 80 meters in the rear part of the facility. This clearly shows that the underground system described could not possibly have been laid in the ground from above, but had to have been laid in an existing natural cavity in a mining-technical manner! We suspect that this tunneling work started below the location of the Central German Works or

below the area around »Amt 800«. As a result, it seems only logical - and is also claimed in other witness statements - that other unknown facilities must be located in this area, the direction of the military training area at Ohrdruf, but on the other hand also seems to point in the direction of Rudisleben/Ichtershausen.

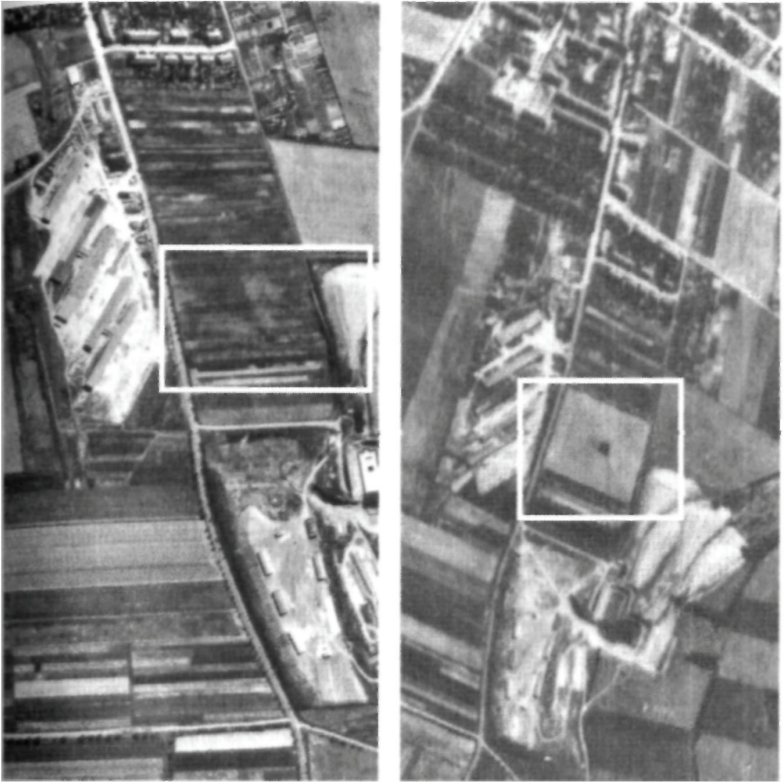
The question that arises almost automatically is: If the Americans knew about the existence of the "Heckmann plant," were they then looking for it? It is not easy to want to give an answer to this, since there are no usable eyewitness testimonies and no other documents on this.

But there are two aerial photographs of the area, taken during different periods of time - which show a strange change that suggests the Americans checked the German prisoner's testimony on the spot. If you compare the aerial photo sections of the area around the Mitteldeutsche Werk and the terrain beyond from April 1945 and July 1945, you immediately notice a change in surface that is certainly no coincidence. While in April 1945 the area of interest appears to be completely intact, in July 1945 the same section has been greatly altered, showing a brighter area with a large black "hole" in the center (see page 151, right): We believe this shows



The area west of Arnstadt in an aerial photo taken in April 1945:

(1) western border of the city of Arnstadt; (2) Central German plant, (3) abandoned "Office 800" construction site; (4) approximate position of that described by Heckmann underground facility. The two broad lines (5) roughly mark the Tunneling area in which further facilities may have been laid underground in the direction of the military training area. (Image archive AIR IMAGE DATABASE, engineering office HG Carls, Würzburg)



Picture left: Aerial picture from April 1945 with the MDW and opposite normal surface structure, which in this form reaches to the western border of Arnstadt. The »Heckmann plant« is assumed to be in the marked area. picture right: The same area was photographed again on July 22, 1945 from a higher altitude skimmed and photographed and shows a clear surface change in the area of interest with a black "spot" in the center. Is this structural change due to agricultural influences

attributed or is the whole thing related to the search for the Americans for secret facilities in the area? (Source aerial photo: picture archive AERIAL PHOTO DATABASE, engineering office HG Carls, Würzburg)

this aerial photo comparison that something was important enough to be checked by the Americans on the spot. It is not known whether they found anything in the »Heckmann plant«.

However, according to a witness report published earlier in the book, equipment was removed from the Central German plant opposite. The question is what exactly it was about. On careful consideration, only two possibilities remain: either systems for German nuclear research or systems that had to do with high-energy technology (radiation technology). Possibly even both were secured and salvaged by the Americans at this location.

We suspect this because we have indications that the Mitteldeutsche Werk on Ohrdruffer Strasse has advanced to become a particularly important location in relation to German high technology. This can be seen, among other things, from the fact that prisoners and free workers employed here during the last year of the war were shot by the SS when the site was being cleared. So it had to be about them

Knowledge bearers have acted, the the Germans under no circumstances in the hands of those responsible wanted to let the Allies get there. Hence they were murdered.

The readership will of course now ask how we know that the concentration camp prisoners and freelance workers working in the MDW complex were killed. Well, the answer is simple and brutal at the same time: The dead were discovered - and photographed - by the US units advancing into the area.

Two of the photos taken at that time, or prints thereof, were given to us together with other photos and the explanations for them textual explanations, which are then placed in quotation marks. We want these recordings because they show the events at the end of the war in the Arnstadt/Ohrdruf area in a meaningful way